CREMATION CONFERENCE

held under the auspices of

THE CREMATION SOCIETY
(Limited by Guarantee)

AND THE

FEDERATION OF BRITISH CREMATION AUTHORITIES

at FRIENDS HOUSE, EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, N.W.1
on THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY, JULY 18, 19, 20, 1946

25 SEP 1946

Report of Proceedings

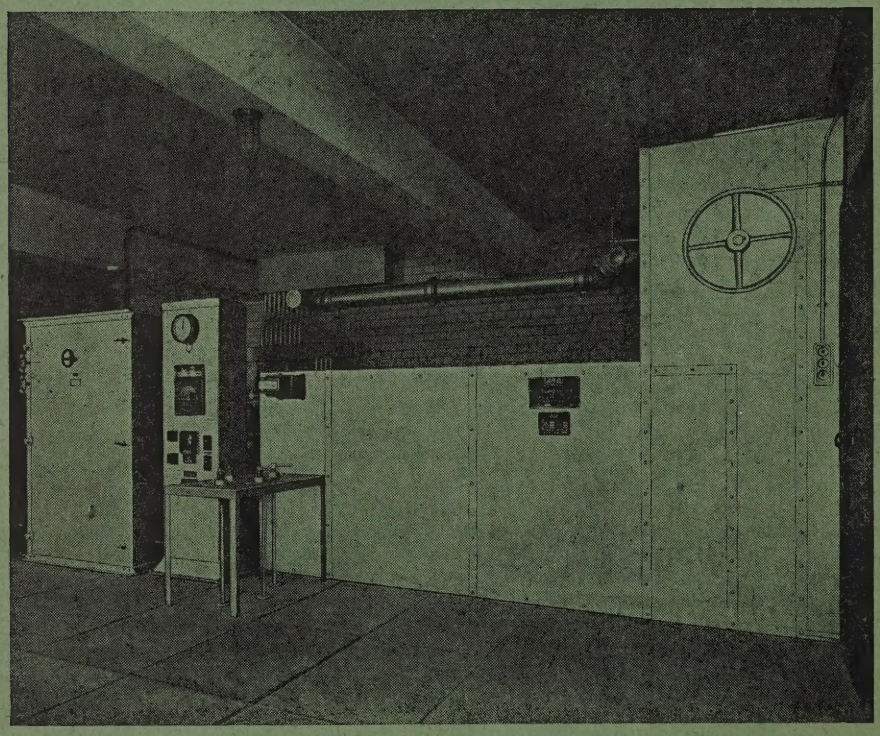
Price: TWO SHILLINGS & SIXPENCE

Printed and Published by THE PHAROS PRESS, LONDON

G.E.C.

ELECTRIC FURNACES

For Crematoria



A G.E.C. installation at a well-known Crematorium. The switch and control panels can be seen on the left of picture.

Their simple and economical operation and absence of fire, flame and noise make electric furnaces especially suitable for crematoria.

Consult the G.E.C. for furnaces to meet any conditions.

Advt. of The General Electric Co. Ltd., Magnet House, Kingsway House, London W.C. 2.

22503519779

THE
CREMATION SOCIETY
(*Limited by Guarantee*)

THE
FEDERATION OF BRITISH
CREMATION AUTHORITIES

Report of Proceedings

of the

CREMATION CONFERENCE

held at

FRIENDS HOUSE, EUSTON ROAD., LONDON, N.W.1
on **THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY, July 18, 19, 20, 1946**

CONTENTS

	Page
Message from THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON	3
Presidential Address by THE RT. HON. LORD HORDER, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.	3
"Methods of Incineration" :	
Gas, by G. LE B. DIAMOND, M.INST.MECH.E., M.INST.GAS E.	9
Electricity, by J. H. CROSSLEY, B.SC.	11
Conference Dinner	13
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (THE RT. HON. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P.)	13
"Cremation Regulations" by CLIFFORD HEYWORTH	14
"The Need for the Siting and Planning of Crematoria" :	
THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (MR. FRED MARSHALL, J.P., M.P.)	22
J. L. SEATON DAHL, F.R.I.B.A.	23
EDWARD WHITE, P.P.I.L.A., V.M.H.	26
"Memorials for Cremated Service Dead in The United Kingdom" by LT. COL. R. W. MURPHY, O.B.E.	28
"Education for Cremation" by P. HERBERT JONES	31
Visit to Mortlake Crematorium	34
List of Delegates	34

THE CREMATION SOCIETY

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Founded in 1874 to promote a more sanitary and inexpensive method of disposing of the dead. Incorporated in 1912. Not conducted for profit.

OFFICERS

President:

THE RT. HON. LORD HORDER, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Vice-Presidents:

THE REV. SIDNEY M. BERRY, D.D.
THE RT. HON. LORD BEVERIDGE, K.C.B., LL.D., F.B.A.
THE LORD FORRESTER OF CORSTOPHINE, M.A.
THE LADY HELENA GLEICHEN, O.B.E.
THE RT. HON. ARTHUR GREENWOOD, C.H., M.P.
DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN, G.B.E., D.SC., LL.D.
THE RT. HON. LORD HARRIS, M.C., J.P.
JULIAN S. HUXLEY, D.SC., F.R.S.
THE RT. HON. LORD HYNDLEY, G.B.E.
SIR STANLEY MARCHANT, C.V.O., D.MUS.
THE VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA
THE RT. HON. LORD WOOLTON, C.H.

Council:

Chairman :
SIR GEORGE ELLISTON, M.C., M.A., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :
MRS. B. M. GILBERT

P. RITCHIE CALDER, C.B.E.
SIR JOHN CAMERON, BART., LL.B.
G. LE B. DIAMOND, M.I.MECH.E., M.INST.GAS E.
H. T. HERRING, O.B.E., M.B., B.S.
THE RT. HON. LORD HORDER, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P
MAJOR J. B. MORGAN-SMITH, D.S.O.
DR. A. A. MUSSEN, M.D., D.P.H.
G. A. NOBLE, F.C.I.S.
M. N. PHELPS, LL.B.
ALDERMAN J. REEVES, M.P.
HUGH ROYLE
H. SYKES

General Secretary:

P. HERBERT JONES
47 Nottingham Place, London, W.1
Tel. : WELbeck 6079

THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH CREMATION AUTHORITIES

Founded in 1924 to encourage a high standard of service and efficiency among those engaged with administration of Crematoria. All Cremation Authorities are eligible for membership and all who are contemplating the establishment of Crematoria are eligible for Associate membership.

Executive Committee:

Chairman :
HUGH ROYLE, Norwich Cremation Authority

Vice-Chairman :
W. R. TATTERSALL, Dundee Cremation Authority

P. BENSON, Tottenham and Wood Green Cremation Authority
ALDERMAN A. E. BERNAYS, Mortlake Cremation Authority
A. BLACKBURN, Blackpool Cremation Authority
L. J. EVANS, Croydon Cremation Authority
P. HERBERT JONES, Norwich Cremation Authority
ALDERMAN A. J. MAKER, Reading Cremation Authority
COUNCILLOR SIR HAROLD MIDDLEBROOK, BART., Harrogate Cremation Authority
COUNCILLOR A. E. MUNN, J.P., Kettering Cremation Authority
ALDERMAN E. S. NICHOLSON, Sheffield Cremation Authority
G. A. NOBLE, F.C.I.S., Kent County Cremation Authority
W. R. PEARSON, Leeds (Lawnswood) Cremation Authority
F. C. PIGGOTT, Manchester Cremation Authority
A. J. SNEEZUM, Ipswich Cremation Authority
JAMES E. SPICKETT, Pontypridd Cremation Authority
ALDERMAN A. STARK, Hull Cremation Authority
E. S. WHITE, Birmingham Corporation Cremation Authority

Secretary:

P. HERBERT JONES
47 Nottingham Place, London, W.1
Tel. : WELbeck 6079

WELLCOME LIBRARY
P
11958

CREMATION CONFERENCE: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

OPENING SESSION

Thursday 18th July 1946 at 10-30 a.m.

THE RT. HON. LORD HORDER, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., (President of The Cremation Society) in the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT read the following message from THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON:—

Dear Lord Horder,

I am writing to thank you for your very cordial invitation to be present to welcome the delegates to the Conference of the Cremation Society on July 18th. As I think you already know, I am heavily pledged to official engagements that day, and it will be quite impossible for me to fit in a visit to the Friends Meeting House.

Will you please express my very great regret to all present and my very warm good wishes for the success of their deliberations?

I hope they will all enjoy their brief stay in London.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES DAVIS,
Lord Mayor

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

by THE RT. HON. LORD HORDER, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

AS President of the Conference, my first duty is to extend a welcome to all the delegates. Many of you have had to travel long distances in order to be here. I hope that you will take back with you new knowledge on the subject of Cremation which will prove of service to the citizens of the many towns which you represent.

The Conference, which is organised jointly by the Cremation Society and the Federation of British Cremation Authorities, is the most ambitious we have yet attempted. We are stimulated by the fact that cremation has made considerable progress in recent years, as the published figures show. From a total of 2,700 in 1925, and 9,600 in 1935, the figures for Cremation rose to a total of 43,000 in 1945. An important factor in the pre-war progress of cremation was the annual increase in the number of new crematoria. Unfortunately, circumstances have prevented the erection of new crematoria during the war period, otherwise there can be no doubt that we should now be recording considerably larger figures even than those I have mentioned. Of the progress to which I have referred the most significant part has been made in the field of municipal enterprise.

CEMETERIES OR PLAYING FIELDS?

The causes of the pre-war municipal activity in the world of cremation are not far to seek. In the first place, cremation has come to be recognised as the most sanitary, as it is the speediest, method of disposal of the dead and since more and more people have come to accept the principle of cremation, it is the plain duty of Local Authorities to provide the necessary srevices. But perhaps a more potent reason which has forced many Local Authorities to establish crematoria is an economic one. Cemeteries are filling up and with the growth of population and the increasing demands of housing and recreation, the municipalities are finding it more and more difficult to obtain the necessary land for cemetery extensions. In London, for example, the problem is very acute and most of the Metropolitan Boroughs are burying their dead outside the Borough boundaries. A little while past I asked the question: "Cemeteries or playing fields, which shall we have? we can't have both."

BURDEN ON THE RATES

Then there is the burden on the rates. Some years ago we made a survey of the costs of burial. A questionnaire was sent to each burial authority and a report was compiled from the details supplied. This report showed that in some towns the loss to the ratepayers was as high as £8 for each burial in the cemetery, and that, taking the country as a whole, the average loss to the ratepayers was £2 per burial. Given an approximate figure of half-a-million burials per annum, this represents an annual loss to the ratepayers of the country of not less than £1,000,000 on burial, with no prospect of a diminution of the loss until some other and more economic scheme is devised. The fact is that urban land has become so valuable that burial has become a luxury which we can no longer afford.

To those of us who have advocated cremation over many years it is a source of satisfaction that municipalities have come to appreciate these facts and are now seeking the obvious remedy.

MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISE CATCHING UP

The Cremation Society was founded in 1874. Its pioneer crematorium at Woking was opened to the public in 1885. But it was not until 1901 that the first municipal crematorium was opened. For some years before the war, municipal enterprise seemed to lag behind public opinion, but it would appear that it has now caught up, since I understand that some two hundred local authorities are now contemplating the establishment of crematoria, and that many of these will materialise as soon as building conditions permit. Most of

these authorities have been in contact with the Cremation Society over the past three or four years, seeking information, which was readily given. Realizing this growing demand, and with the view to making the desired information available in a permanent form, the Cremation Society, in furtherance of its policy of encouraging the establishment of ideal crematoria, published at the end of last year a new handbook : "Cremation in Great Britain." The book has achieved a large sale, and I understand that copies are now available at the Conference Exhibition.

A HELPING HAND

We are now going a step further and we are inviting you to discuss your problems with us through the medium of a Conference. Many of you represent authorities that are hoping to establish crematoria and we wish to help you to overcome your initial difficulties. The Cremation Movement is growing not only in terms of the number of cremations taking place ; it is a progressive movement in which thought and experiment are continuously striving to improve technique. It is plain, therefore, that Cremation Authorities, and those who seek to become Cremation Authorities, must maintain constant association for the expression of opinions and the interchange of ideas if the public is to get the fullest benefit of the advantages resulting from the supersession of a wasteful and antiquated burial system by the more increasingly popular, economical and hygienic system of Cremation.

THE IDEAL CREMATORIUM

But it is not sufficient merely to provide cremation services. These services must take into account the accumulated experience of seventy years of cremation development, experience upon which local authorities can freely draw. Let me develop this theme a little. (i) We have learnt that a crematorium must be planned by a competent architect and that it must be of a pleasing appearance. There can be no compromise with the pseudo-Gothic of the cemetery chapel. There is, indeed, a great opportunity here for the creation of original crematorium designs, and we nope that authorities will not be slow to realise their responsibilities to the public in this regard.

(ii) With the extension of the practice of scattering the ashes, the Garden has assumed much greater importance. We hope that prospective cremation authorities will realise this fact and that they will appreciate the value of a proper site upon which the garden and the buildings may be planned in unison.

(iii) The crematorium must be efficient in its technical equipment and in its administration. Having attended to all these matters, and having established the ideal crematorium, we hope that you will not rest content, but that you will have in mind the purpose for which you have planned. Since it is your hope that the public will avail themselves of the services you have supplied, you must ensure that the public is made aware of these services by taking every opportunity to publicise them. On this, as on other aspects of Cremation, we shall always be pleased to help you.

NEED FOR PROPAGANDA

I have referred to the fact that the Cremation Society has been in operation for more than seventy years. Throughout these years a persistent propaganda has been maintained with the object of bringing to the notice of the community the advantages of cremation. The task is far from complete. There are many people who are daily learning of these advantages for the first time, and there must be many more who have yet to learn them. If each new cremation authority becomes a centre for the dissemination of knowledge on the subject, the task of educating the people of this country will be rendered considerably easier, and will be completed more speedily than was possible in the early years when London was the only centre of enlightenment.

Some authorities may take the view that it is not their function to conduct propaganda on behalf of cremation, but I would remind them that much of the progress that has been made in modern times in the realm of public health has resulted from educational and propaganda methods adopted nationally and locally in order to bring to the notice of the people the services at their disposal, and the advantages to them of co-operating in these services.

Once we are agreed—and I think most of us are agreed—that cremation is a desirable hygienic reform and that from several points of view it is advantageous both to the community and to the citizen, it should need little to convince us of the desirability of bringing about this reform as soon as possible, and of using every reasonable method to achieve this end. I therefore hope you will not hesitate to accept our invitation to discuss this aspect of the case so that we may co-operate with you in the carrying out of agreed plans calculated to educate the citizens to understand the value of the cremation services that you are about to establish on their behalf.

A feature of this Conference will be the amount of time at each session which will be at the disposal of the delegates. Frequently, the platform tends to dominate a Conference, but this time we have sought to prevent this by bringing to the Conference various experts, who will open discussions on the subjects on which they can speak with authority, and then delegates will have every opportunity to put their own points, and to ask their questions, which will be dealt with by the experts as far as may be possible.

In conjunction with the Conference, an Exhibition has been arranged in the smaller hall. Whilst this Exhibition is not as complete as we would wish, I think it will be none the less helpful. Selected organisations have been invited to implement the discussions of the Conference by displaying models or illustrations of their products, and by the attendance of their representatives, who will be pleased to give information. I hope that you will all at some time during these three days visit the Exhibition, which I am sure will prove helpful.

To complete our programme, we have been fortunate to arrange a visit to the Mortlake Crematorium, and we are indebted to the Mortlake Crematorium Board for their kindness and courtesy in permitting us to do this, as well as for their generosity in providing refreshments at Richmond. This will be a most instructive outing for I understand that there is a tendency for smaller local authorities to combine to form Joint Boards or Joint Committees to establish crematoria to serve a combined area. At Mortlake delegates will see the only existing example of such a Joint Board in action, and the success which co-operation can achieve. I have pleasant recollections of performing the opening ceremony at the Mortlake crematorium, and it is good to learn of the success which it has achieved during the intervening period.

NEED FOR LAW REFORM

Having regard to the growth of public opinion in favour of Cremation, it is necessary that we should discuss the subject of the Law and Regulations relating to Cremation. We are fortunate in having so able an exponent as Mr. Heyworth to lead the discussion to-morrow morning, and I have no intention of trespassing upon his preserves. Nevertheless, as I have frequently said, I believe the time has come for a complete revision of the Law, which is both chaotic and restrictive. The Cremation Act of 1902 was passed at a time when cremation was considered to be revolutionary and dangerous, and therefore to be discouraged. To-day the principle of cremation is widely accepted and with this change in the public viewpoint there comes the need for modern legislation in keeping with the spirit of the age. The English Archers were admirable at Crecy, but they would have been a source of embarrassment at El Alamein and entirely wasted at Hiroshima. There is reason to believe that the Home Secretary is alive to the need for revision ; I hope that the work of this representative gathering will encourage him to act boldly in removing the barriers which at present operate against the greater progress of our movement and in giving all possible encouragement to the people who adopt cremation as the method of choice for the disposal of the dead.

CREMATION COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN

With the growing acceptance of cremation by the general public, and the consequent need for greater co-ordination of effort, the Cremation Society and the Federation of British Cremation Authorities have agreed to form the Cremation Council of Great Britain, a body which will shortly hold its first meeting. The major task of this Council will be to urge upon the Government the need for new regulations, and to assist the Government, if permitted to do so, in the framing of these new regulations. I welcome this co-operative effort, and I am sure that delegates present in their capacity of prospective Cremation Authorities will wish the new Council every success in its work. The Cremation Authorities of the future will benefit considerably by the efforts of the new Council. I therefore suggest that local authorities who are now contemplating crematoria should take advantage of the privilege offered to become associate members of the Federation. By so doing they will add their support to the case which the Council will in due course present to the appropriate Government department.

WELCOME TO MINISTERS

In view of the negotiations which we anticipate will shortly take place, it is good to see the names of Ministers on the Conference programme. One department which considerably influences Local Authorities who contemplate Crematoria is the Ministry of Health. The Minister of Health must approve the site and the plans, and it is to him you must go for your sanction to establish a Crematorium. This is only one of the reasons why it will be my pleasant duty to welcome Mr. Bevan, the Minister of Health, when he addresses us to-morrow morning. Similarly the importance of the subject down for discussion on Friday afternoon, the siting and planning of Crematoria, cannot be exaggerated, and we shall therefore welcome the presence on that occasion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

CHURCH APPROVAL

Before I close my address I want to touch upon one other matter. In the past, a great many people who have been otherwise well-disposed to cremation have withheld their support because they had some doubts as to the attitude of the Church on the subject. At a Conference held before the war, we were fortunate to hear the standpoint of the Church of England authoritatively expressed by the late Bishop of Norwich (Dr. Pollock), who told us that a Committee dealing with the matter had been in existence for some time and that he was hoping that in due course this Committee would report its findings to the Convocation of Canterbury. Since no great publicity was given to it at the time and many may

therefore not have seen it, I think it advisable to refer to the fact that in May, 1943, the Upper House of the Convocation of Canterbury received the report of this Committee on the subject of the practice of cremation, and proceeded to adopt recommendations to the effect that on social and hygienic grounds there was much to commend cremation, and that no theological significance was to be attached to the practice. The report also stressed that the practice of cremation did not in any way conflict with any doctrine of the Church of England. Since then we have had further clear evidence of the attitude of the leaders of the Church of England in the cremation of the last two Archbishops of Canterbury, Dr. Temple and Dr. Lang. These circumstances taken together should remove any lingering doubts there may have been as to the attitude adopted by the Church of England on this subject.

TELL THE PEOPLE

I have tried to cover many points in this address, ranging over a wide field, but I hope I have conveyed to you, in the first place, the desirability of a Conference such as this, and also the desirability of the establishment of a system of periodic Conferences of this character in order that we may establish and maintain the highest standards of construction, equipment and administration of the crematoria of the future.

I hope, too, that I have given you the impression of the cremation movement as a growing and vital force in the social and economic life of this country. Above all, I am anxious that you should go from this Conference convinced of the desirability of bringing home the advantages of cremation to the people.

In the past the masses of the people have withheld their support to the movement, because they were under the erroneous inpression that cremation was something for the wealthier classes. This idea must be eradicated if we are to make the progress that we aim at. We must make our crematoria and their gardens attractive, and we must not waver in bringing the advantages of cremation to the notice of the people both by the provision of an inexpensive service, and by the carrying out of organised schemes of education.

At this Conference you will have an excellent opportunity to equip yourselves for this task and I hope you will take full advantage of al that the Conference has to offer you.

DISCUSSION

COUNCILLOR C. H. ADAMS (Newport, Mon.): Lord Horder made a strong point about the economic point of view. Can he tell the Conference whether it is suggested that Crematoria will be self-supporting. I may say, on behalf of my own Authority, with regard to the point he raised, that we are losing £5 at the moment from every burial in the cemeteries, with a prospect of the loss being £7 within the next two years. Can he tell us if we shall be able to advise our authority that we should save a great deal? He will surely recognise that, as crematoria will have to be some miles out in the country, it will make the travelling part more expensive. Then I would like to ask him, as far as getting out our plans is concerned, can he tell us if there is any chance within the near future of getting those plans brought forward to the Ministry of Health with the object of getting on with the work? On the religious side, can he tell us what is the attitude of the Roman Catholics and the Jews?

LORD HORDER: I propose to hand some of the questions asked to my colleagues for them to answer. I will ask Mr. Royle to reply to those questions on economy.

MR. HUGH ROYLE (Chairman of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities): I hope to give you the benefit of my experience in replying to two of the three questions put by the questioner on the question of expense. I can tell him that a Joint Crematorium Board with which I was associated opened a crematorium in 1939 and, I think, two years ago paid off about one third of its capital and out of revenue they have provided an additional incinerating chamber. It is my view that, in proper districts, and Lord Horder has referred to it, the provision of cremation facilities will be taken advantage of, especially if they are situate in suitable surroundings, and now is the time to select the site in order that it may be developed on the most beautiful lines. Many of you like myself probably have enquiries from your friends about cremation. I have had very many and I should think I have given out more than 100 forms to be signed by the persons concerned, expressing a wish to be cremated. For every one of those 100 people who wish to be cremated, provision has to be made for their future needs, and I think that is a point that the 200 Local Authorities should have in mind. In answer to the second question, all I can say is that there is a tremendous amount of detail to be gone into with regard to the approval of plans, which can be done beforehand, so that when materials and labour are released, commencement may be made, and I feel sure that the Minister of Health will do all in his power to get the plans through.

LORD HORDER: Mr. Jones is *au fait*, I am sure, with the question of the attitude of Roman Catholics and Jews towards Cremation, and perhaps he will answer this question.

MR. P. HERBERT JONES (General Secretary, the Cremation Society, and Secretary of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities): Roman Catholics are opposed to Cremation: that is the short answer. They state that they are not opposed doctrinally to cremation but they are opposed on the grounds of discipline. They say a Roman Catholic must not be cremated; that is the official Roman Catholic point of view in this country. With regard to Jews: the older type of Jew is opposed to cremation on religious grounds but the liberal and more modern Jew is being cremated in fairly large numbers. The tendency of modern Jewry is to go in favour of cremation, while the older type of Jew still sticks to earth burial.

COUNCILLOR E. KAVANAGH (Leeds): I want to make one or two general observations. There is just this point, that the President said if more crematoria were built there would be more cremations. My experience, and we find it in Leeds particularly, is that if you had crematoria all round the city, you would not get any more cremations. And he made the observation that public opinion has decided that crematoria are necessary. I don't think that is so. I say that there is a growing need of propaganda for this most important work. Education work is being done by the Society—I must with all due respect say that the education amongst the masses of the people is not very

competent. He said it must be done by individuals and infiltration and not necessarily from the centre. I disagree entirely with these observations. I repeat that there is an urgent need for the Cremation Society through its Central Organisation to organise interesting propaganda for cremation. There never was such a growing need for information about cremation as there is to-day. Lord Horder says we cannot have public meetings. Anyone who wants to give any point of view to the public, no matter what it is, organises public meetings. I argue that the number of people whom we could reach by individual contact is very small compared with those we could reach by well-advertised meetings, where we could put the position from the national point of view to these people. We in Leeds don't work with other authorities and we are not concerned, quite frankly, from the financial point of view ; as a matter of a fact, we are asking people to pay nothing. We are offering a cremation service to those people not belonging to our city at the same rates as apply to our own citizens. In the City of Leeds we want people to use our crematorium, and we should be concerned from the national point of view to get as many people cremation minded as possible, and to get these people cremation minded this Society and Local Authorities must advertise on a large scale that we have something to sell, and that is the best way of bringing cremation to the public eye.

LORD HORDER : I would like to say that I hope I did not give the impression that the more crematoria that were built, the more you would popularise the idea of cremation. Mr. Kavanagh at the end advised that he had something to sell and we know that the best goods are their own best advertisement. I do hold that an efficient and well-administered crematorium is one of the best contributions to propaganda. With regard to my remarks in my Presidential Address, that we cannot hold public meetings, I would just like to say this. Local authorities are able to propagandise in connection with any of their public services, and do, and the expenses are paid by the ratepayers. There are difficulties, no doubt, in arranging public meetings, but I would like to withdraw my remark that you cannot have public meetings. On the question of education and propaganda in general—I think, by the way, five minutes a speaker is the proper time—I would like Mrs. Gilbert, who is the best champion of the cause, and who is extremely interested in the subject, to give us her views.

Mrs. B. M. GILBERT (Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Cremation Society) : I only just wanted to say we do not want to farm out our responsibility from the Cremation Society. We are hoping to do a great deal of education and we feel very strongly that we can help you in this, and if any of the local authorities represented here will let us know in what way we can help, they can be quite sure of receiving a very great welcome from us. We like to initiate schemes from this end. Our President was quite right in saying that one, at least, of the greatest contributions we can have is a well-run crematorium, which is well built and well conducted. I am not going to waste your time by saying anything more. Women don't talk—it is left to men !

Alderman A. STARK (Hull) : The first question people ask my authority about cremation is, "How much does it cost ?". We have found that the biggest attraction to cremation was the reasonable charge and so we decided that we would cremate for nothing, so that to-day we have cut out the whole question of cost and it doesn't cost the ratepayers a farthing. The first year we had £12, then we got about £120, and now we have £750 in hand. In fact, so successful has this idea been that we have now got to the stage where we pay the cost of the certificates which are given by the Medical Officer of Health. The actual cremations cost nothing ; we do not pay for the coffin, flowers, hearse, parsons, etc., and all the trimmings that go with it ; this cost rests with the people concerned. If they want a show, they can have it and pay for it, but the cremation is nothing and we make a profit out of it ! In fact, we have made cremation so popular in Hull that people have started queueing for it !

LORD HORDER : Whether Alderman Stark is categorically or theoretically correct I cannot say, but it is of interest to note that such things do happen, and, as they happen at Hull, I suppose it is correct.

Alderman W. LAWLEY (Mayor—Wolverhampton) : I happen to represent one of the 200 Local Authorities who are contemplating the erection of a crematorium, and I feel very much concerned about some of the suggestions that have been made. There certainly seems to be a general lack of guidance for those authorities who, like Wolverhampton, are contemplating the erection of crematoria. I am sure we should all like to know, from those authorities who possess crematoria, what they have found the most economical and what most profitable—profitable, for instance, to the ratepayers, for it is their service. With regard to the erection of crematoria, I would like to know whether it is possible for them to be erected in an existing cemetery. I would like to make particular reference to the perpetuity of urns. Would not these eventually encumber the crematorium ? I would like to make one more observation, and that is with regard to propaganda. I suggest the best means would be to concentrate the attention of the public on the archaic regulations, which, I am sure, are hampering the more general acceptance of cremation.

Mr. G. le B. DIAMOND (Member of the Cremation Society Council) : I listened with very great interest to the last speaker, and if I got him right, he said he had not sufficient guidance as to what the authorities are to do who are contemplating the erection of crematoria. I would not advocate the erection of a crematorium in an existing cemetery. I would want to select a site of beauty with mature trees, if possible, and somewhere that would be easily accessible, but at the same time, not too obtrusive. Nothing can be more depressing than a long succession of funerals passing along a residential thoroughfare. I think you want to have very careful planning. You need to plan with your architect and make quite sure that you have not overlooked anything. I think, also, you want to be very careful about the design of the building. I have seen some crematoria which might have been very excellent cafes at a swimming pool, and, on the other hand, I have seen others which might have been furniture depositories, so, you see, it is very necessary to get hold of an architect who knows something about design. I have several friends in this room who are borough engineers, but borough engineers are not always the best men to plan a crematorium. One last word. When our friend from Wolverhampton has got his crematorium, I hope he will select his staff with very great care. They should be selected with the right outlook and then paid well.

Mr. A. E. BENNETT (Superintendent—Stafford) : I was very interested this morning to hear the statement made by the representative of Hull with regard to the very excellent facilities for cremation in Hull. I never knew such an Utopian state existed. As there is no cremation charge and no maintenance charge, I think that the crematorium is a charge on the rates and those people who do not use the service are penalised for the few who do.

Councillor L. S. HOLLIS (Wandsworth) : First of all, I would like to recommend anyone to come to see our crematorium in Wandsworth. I was very impressed with our friend from Leeds, although he states that we should publicise cremation from the centre and not particularly

through infiltration. I am not greatly impressed with the idea of public meetings, and I think a better idea would be lectures in public libraries, which, to my mind, would be a greater asset to the public than any public meeting you could call. It is very difficult to discuss a person's death with them when they are very much alive. Local advertisements or local announcements in the local or national press are very effective in introducing cremation to the public, because you get the person who is not interested regularly reminded of the fact that you do supply this service. With regard to designs, I consider many of the illustrations in the Cremation Society's handbook are hideous. Designs should be obtained from an architect with some sense of responsibility and should not be given to borough engineers at all.

ALDERMAN J. F. W. LUCAS (Camberwell): I recently had cause to have my wife cremated, and I was astounded at the bill I received from the funeral director. It was about five times what it should have been. I certainly feel that local authorities will have to face up to the problem of the bills of funeral directors. If this sort of thing is going to continue, municipal authorities will have to take up the whole question as to whether they should not take up funeral directing themselves.

ALDERMAN J. PEARSON, J.P. (Sheriff—Newcastle-on-Tyne): When we undertook to build a Crematorium in Newcastle, we appointed a well-known architect, and he himself went to various places where there are crematoria to see the designs for himself, with the result that we have a very beautiful crematorium, and if any of you care to write to our City Engineer, he will be pleased to supply you with any information you may desire and will be glad to be of assistance to you. We opened our crematorium in 1934 and we had one furnace. Soon, however, we had a second furnace and now we are putting in a third. The number of cremations we had in 1934 was only about 200, but this figure had increased in 1945 to 1,707, and every quarter we are receiving reports of the increase in the number of cremations. I say to you who are contemplating the erection of crematoria, do erect a beautiful one, so that people when they see it will want to be cremated; and, above all, do get hold of a good architect and you will then get the best crematorium.

COUNCILLOR R. E. H. MOULDER (Gloucester): I represent an authority which is contemplating the erection of a crematorium. Are there any means of enabling authorities like mine to obtain the number of people in the area who have expressed a desire to be cremated. Secondly, could you inform me whether it is best to have the Cremation first and the funeral service after, or have the funeral service first and the cremation after?

MR. H. ROYLE: On the question of forms it is very difficult to give any answer as to the number of people who desire to be cremated. All I know is that I believe that everybody who is interested in cremation and wants to be cremated is asked to fill in and sign a form. Many of them have visited the crematorium and many crematoria hold a service, about every four weeks, for the relatives of those who have been cremated since the last service.

MR. P. H. JONES: These forms were originally issued by the Cremation Society and they come back to us and we file them, but not in geographical order, so I could not tell our friend how many have signed their form in the Gloucester area. A large number of funeral directors supply these forms and have thus carried out a means of private register as they go. So the answer, very briefly, is that we just do not know how many people have signed the form saying they would like to be cremated. That is the best answer I can give.

ALDERMAN A. E. BERNAYS (Mortlake): The total cost of acquiring the site and of providing and equipping the Crematorium at Mortlake, which is a Joint Crematorium Board, was approximately £33,000. In about 20 years the debt on the Crematorium will be paid off, and the precepting authorities are receiving a 10% profit. The greater part of this expenditure was met out of loans which are now being repaid by instalments of about £969 per year. I was personally converted to cremation in 1890 and I have not been cremated yet!

MR. W. R. PEARSON (Lawnswood—Leeds): I consider that cremation has a technique of its own. The point of committal has been mentioned, and the members of the Board have felt more and more that something new from that point of view should be devised. Six years ago a new reception chapel was built in the crematorium chapel and the coffin remained stationary during the whole service. At the close of the last hymn, the curtains were drawn across the entrance to the reception chapel. The number of comments which were made before and after the alteration were such as to confirm the view that the Board had taken a very wise course in making the alteration. The main reason was a psychological one. If the coffin was moved at the committal state of the service, the mourners' thoughts were concentrated on what was happening to the body of their loved one behind the scenes. If the service were to be of any value, nothing material of that kind should be introduced. That the addition at Lawnswood has been appreciated is shown by the fact that last year Lawnswood had the biggest increase anywhere in the country.

ALDERMAN MRS. S. J. HAYWARD (Mayor—Newport, Mon.): I consider that one of the best methods of propaganda would be if the Council sent news and information to the different women's organisations up and down the country, especially during the winter, when women get together at their various organisations and groups, and I do feel that if they could have the necessary information and perhaps a speaker, it would do a great deal in the cause of cremation. I would like to propose a vote of thanks to Lord Horder for his presidential address. His heart is in cremation, but I hope it will be many years before his heart is cremated.

END OF SESSION

SECOND SESSION

Thursday, July 18th, 1946, at 2-15 p.m.

MRS. B. M. GILBERT (Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Cremation Society) in the chair.

"METHODS OF INCINERATION"

MRS. B. M. GILBERT : We meet this afternoon to discuss the technical side of cremation. I think it will be helpful if Mr. Diamond speaks first. He is a great authority on gas incineration. Then Mr. Crossley will speak on electrical incineration, after which I would ask the members of the Conference who have any question to ask or fact to make, first to put their remarks from the body of the hall. I would suggest that a question merely requiring elucidation can be put in one or two sentences, and can be answered by either Mr. Diamond or Mr. Crossley. When these questions are clear and we know where we are, then I hope that various members will come up to the platform for five minutes each—and, gentlemen, I do mean five minutes—and will give their contribution to the discussion. I know nothing about this, and I would like to say that, as far as the Cremation Society goes, we have no favour on either side. I now have great pleasure in introducing Mr. Diamond.

MR. G. LE B. DIAMOND, M.Inst.Mech.E., M. Inst. Gas E. :

Many of those who are best informed in the Cremation Movement have, for some time, realised that the battle for the acceptance of the cremation principle has been won, and that, in the present period of vast reconstruction, a large number of new crematoria will be built. Plans are already known to exist for more than 200, but it will be a long time before work can be commenced, for the necessary licences will not be issued until the housing programme is in a consderably more advanced stage.

The latest edition of the standard work of reference, " Cremation in Great Britain," records that 58 crematoria are now operating in the British Isles, the vast majority of which are using gas as the incinerating medium, which has been proved, by long experience, to be so satisfactory for this purpose, for it is one of the cleanest and most reliable forms of heat that can be found.

During the war years, the whole fuel position of this country has, however, dramatically changed, and, from a country which has hitherto enjoyed lavish supplies of fuel at very reasonable prices, it is now evident that supplies will be short for many years to come. It is, therefore, imperative in the national interests that all fuel-using equipment should be highly efficient in operation. The modern cremation furnace, with its insulated lining and its multiple controlled burners and pressure air supply, is essentially efficient for the purpose ; moreover, it is ready at all times for immediate use, is free from smoke, and cleanly in operation.

TECHNIQUE OF INCINERATION

The technique for the disposal of the human body by fire has, of course, been used throughout the ages, and, in its simplest form, consisted of placing the body on a funeral pyre of wood, in open air surroundings. No acceptable rapid means of disposal can be found, other than the application of heat, and modern thought has been directed for many years to the problem of how to apply heat, with efficiency, in a manner which will not offend the susceptibilities of the most exacting. The actual disposal is now, of course, always carried out in a suitably-designed incinerating chamber, which has proper provision for collecting the ashes. The human body readily and quickly resolves by oxidation, which produces flame, and it is of importance to realise that, whatever source of energy is employed as the heating medium, flame must ensue or oxidation could not take place.

The body, however, does not consist entirely of combustible matter, for there is a considerable amount of water, which will amount to as much as 100 lbs. in weight, for a body of average size. Certain of the soft tissues also take longer to reduce, but no difficulty occurs in bringing all to a final resolution of white ash in a period of from 1 to 1½ hours.

The furnace attendant quickly acquires the correct technique and manipulative skill for efficient operation, but, among the points to be noted, the following are of some importance :—

1. Careful attention should be given to temperature changes ; for example, rising, falling and holding, shutting off and re-lighting the gas when necessary, using air whenever possible, and careful adjustment of the air pressure through the quadrant controls.

   After incineration has once commenced, it is often sufficient to continue the process by blowing heated air from the recuperator into the chamber, after the gas has been shut off, and, if the furnace is hot to commence with, cremations can be carried out without the use of gas at all.

2. The type of wood used for the coffin has some influence on the time taken for a cremation. Elm, or wood of the cheaper plywood types, are not good combustible material, while oak and other hard woods materially assist combustion.

3. The initial temperature of the furnace at the commencement of the day's cremations is a factor of great importance.

There are, of course, wide differences in the state of bodies received for cremation, sometimes dependent upon the disease which was the ultimate cause of death. There may be, for example, excessive quantities of water vapour to be dispersed, and, at the other extreme, where death has occurred through one of the wasting diseases, the body has already been " burned up", to some extent, by the fierce combustion which has run its course in life, and, in these cases, the dehydrated and emaciated remains require much longer treatment at a higher temperature and even, possibly, some localised combustion to complete the resolution. All these facilities, however, are readily obtainable with a properly-designed gas furnace, which can be provided to meet any required conditions, *e.g.*,

(*a*) With open grid hearth.
(*b*) With closed hearth and auxiliary incinerating chamber for completing the cremation.
(*c*) With recuperators, where fans are available.
(*d*) With natural draught burners, in districts where fans cannot readily be provided.

All are characterised by ease of operation, and can be manipulated by any man of average intelligence.

Consumption of Gas

The amount of gas used varies, of course, with the frequency with which the furnace is employed. The following table has been compiled, by the courtesy of a superintendent of wide experience, using a furnace installed about 10 years ago. It is useless, however, comparing gas consumption figures, unless the conditions are exactly similar.

Introduction Time	*Time Taken*	*Temperature and degrees Centigrade*		*Gas Therms*
		Start	*During*	
10.15 a.m.	1 hr. 40 mins.	Cold	650°	7·12
12.5 p.m.	1 hr. 20 mins.	540°	720°	4·75
2.0 p.m.	1 hr. 35 mins.	620°	800°	3·80
4.0 p.m.	1 hr. 45 mins.	600°	800°	2·37

When using the latest insulated air-blast furnaces, gas consumption figures from 2.7 to 3.5 therms per consumption have been obtained from furnaces in frequent use.

Maintenance

An immense amount of research work has been carried out upon refractory materials required for heat processes in general. In consequence, there is a wide choice of highly-suitable refractory linings available to the furnace engineer. At the comparatively low temperatures at which a cremation furnace works, the life and durability of refractories is now so good that the cost of replacement is but a minor item in upkeep, when spread over the years and the number of cremations which can take place in a furnace between periods of re-lining. It is, therefore, not anticipated that the maintenance or running costs can be materially improved.
Attention is now being given to improvements in technical operation, in the application of heat and the provision of recuperation for heating the air required for combustion. Moreover, increasing interest is being taken in the outward appearance of furnaces, which are now totally enclosed, so that unsightly pipework is concealed.

Description of Modern Cremating Furnaces

Radiant Heating Company

The Radiant Heating Company, of London, specialises in furnaces employing surface combustion, or, at least, Radiant panel combustion, as against open flame burners. The furnaces are built up in the usual manner, with an outer steel case, which can be, and often is, finished in vitreous enamel. There is an inner lining of insulating material surrounding the refractories forming the incinerating chamber, and the recuperator, which is housed above the arch. There is an ash chamber beneath the grid hearth, and radiant heating combustors line the incinerating chamber and also the ash chamber beneath.

The Radiant Heating Company have had a wide experience in designing furnaces for many purposes, and have several satisfactory installations, the maintenance costs for which have proved to be very low over a number of years. This furnace has recently been re-designed.

Askam Cremating Furnace

This furnace has been entirely re-designed since the war, and is now shown in a totally-enclosed form, which can be in vitreous enamel finish, if so desired. It employs town gas, at normal pressure, and the burners are placed in the combustion chamber in such a manner that the flame is directed in a downward direction against the furnace walls, which are rapidly brought to a state of radiant heat. There is an ash chamber below, and leading to a small receptacle in the front, where localised combustion can be carried out.

The hot waste products leave the incinerating chamber and pass upwards to a secondary chamber above the arch, where the recuperator tubes are housed. Air from a turbo-blower is passed through the recuperator, picking up the waste heat on its passage, and is then blown downwards from the centre of the arch, causing intense oxidation. This arrangement is most satisfactory in eliminating smoke which might be given off in the early stages.

Incineration can be carried out, in this furnace, with the aid of pre-heated air only from the

recuperator, if the furnace is in a hot state when it is required for use.

Gibbons Cremating Furnace

Messrs. Gibbons were among the early pioneers of cremating furnaces, but for some years they specialised in other furnace work, and have only recently returned to the manufacture of cremating furnaces. The Gibbons furnace is cased in mild steel, which can have an outer casing of vitreous enamel sheeting, or stainless steel, to suit any requirements. It is of the open-grid-hearth type, with special cast-iron bars supported on suitable bearers. This furnace is particularly well insulated, and is operated by burners of the pressure air type, with separate controls of both gas and air.

The upper and lower portions of the incinerating chamber are provided with secondary air inlets and the air is caused to pass between the furnace walls and the insulated brickwork, thus reducing the temperature of the exterior, and, at the same time, providing some pre-heating of the secondary air, the flow of which is controlled from a special panel.

Some Further Notes on Maintenance

The life of a gas furnace is so prolonged that there are a number of earlier installations about the countryside which are still giving satisfactory service but are extremely utilitarian in appearance. Little, of course, can be done to bring about an improvement, short of installing a modern furnace, but sometimes black-finished furnaces can be much improved in appearance with a coat of aluminium paint. Where the paint is likely to come in contact with a hot surface, special heat-resisting paint should be used, and it is preferable to apply it while the furnace is hot.

In these days of shortage of supplies, it is well to keep a spare refractory lining in stock, for it may take many months to obtain delivery from the date of placing an order, and nothing is more annoying than to approach the time for repairs and find that they cannot be carried out in the time allotted.

From time to time, chimneys should be examined and there should, of course, always be pockets with suitable openings at sharp corners, or anywhere where dust can collect. Periodically, any fine dust accumulating in such a pocket should be removed, as a matter of routine duty. Chimneys of metal (which are not often found) should be closely examined from time to time for signs of corrosion, which can set in very quickly and be a source of much inconvenience.

The combustion engineer has, in recent years, become more and more instrument minded, and there can be no question that a suitable installation of instruments can aid in the efficient operation of any furnace. Instruments specially recommended are as follows:—

A recorder, giving the temperature of the furnace in degrees Centigrade.

An indicating draught gauge.

An indicating gas pressure gauge.

And it is suggested that the instruments should be built into a special panel, incorporating the push-button controls for the fans and also the signal lights from the chapel.

British furnace designers acquired a wealth of new experience during the war years, and this skill is being applied to the construction of furnaces for peace-time needs. There are already several new furnaces either in the experimental stage or under construction, but it is yet too early to give any particulars. In general, it can be said that they are all well insulated, are totally enclosed and employ recuperation in some form or another. One has been fitted with an automatic temperature control, and all are well instrumented.

The outcome of these experiments will be watched with interest.

Mrs. B. M. GILBERT: Thank you, Mr. Diamond. I now call on Mr. Crossley.

Mr. J. H. CROSSLEY, B.Sc.: The last time I had the honour of speaking to the Cremation Society was in 1938, and before that in 1935; Mr. Diamond speaking on that occasion also. The first electric cremation furnace was installed at Bienne, in Switzerland, in 1933. There had been earlier attempts in America, but they were unsuccessful, and several electric furnaces were installed about this time in Japan, although we have little data concerning them.

The first electric installation in Britain was at Harrogate, in 1937, and the second at Croydon, in the same year. Since then, there have been installed an additional one at Croydon, three at Mortlake, one at Pontypridd, two at Camberwell; so that, altogether, there are nine in operation to-day. Another is under construction in Scotland and more would have been in use, had it not been for the war. In 1941 there were 30 electric cremation furnaces already in operation in Europe: there are undoubtedly many more to-day, although I have no record as to the exact number. The number of cremations carried out to date, in the electric furnaces at Croydon and Mortlake alone, is 10,000, this being convincing proof that they are no longer an innovation, but a well-proved piece of equipment.

Constructional Features

An electric cremation furnace is essentially an insulated brick chamber, fitted with electric heating elements. This chamber is pre-heated to about 450 to 500 degrees C., and the elements are switched off before the introduction of the coffin. Air is then blown on to the coffin and combustion

takes place. Blowers are provided to blow fresh air into the furnace and to draw out the products of combustion to the stack. It is necessary to consume the smoke, and this is done by leading it through flues, or into a separate compartment of the furnace, where it is mixed with air, and burnt.

A recuperator is usually fitted to transfer heat from the outgoing products to the incoming air, thus keeping down the cost of operation. The heating elements are of most durable and robust design. They are arranged so as to give uniform heating throughout the chamber, including the base where the ashes collect. All elements are made of a nickel-chromium alloy, possessing high heat-resisting qualities, and are similar to those fitted in the largest industrial electric furnaces, in which working conditions are appreciably more arduous than is the case in a cremation furnace.

Cremation is usually, but not always, smoke-free. Observations indicate that about 75 per cent are smoke free, 20 per cent. emit slight smoke, and 5 per cent. heavier smoke.

Cost Considerations

The initial cost of an electric furnace is much higher than that of a gas furnace, probably about three times as high, but it is a small proportion of total cost of a crematorium. On the other hand, as electricity is used, in any case, for lighting, if an electric furnace is installed, there is no need to bring in gas mains as well. Another point is that only a small chimney is required, to take away body fumes only, and not combustion gas as well. Regarding running costs, these are extremely low. At Croydon, for instance, 500 cremations have been carried out this year, so far, with an average consumption of 25 units per cremation. At one penny per unit, this would cost 2s. 1d. only. At Mortlake, during the present week, three cremations were carried out in one day, with a total consumption of 60 units, costing five shillings.

With regard to the question of maintenance, the average cost is about £1 per week per furnace; a figure which will probably be halved on new post-war designs. The firm with which I am connected make both gas and electric industrial furnaces: they do not, however, make a gas cremation furnace, the reason being that electricity is associated with ideas of cleanliness and efficiency, and the running costs of an electric furnace are practically negligible.

In Sweden, recently, I met Mr. Kurt Jeannson, Consulting Engineer to the Swedish Cremation Society, who is also the Chief Engineer of the Stockholm Gas Works. Mr. Jeansson told me that they now have nine electric cremation furnaces in Sweden, including two under construction, and, although Mr. Jeansson is a Gas Engineer in the city, all the Stockholm cremation furnaces are electrically heated. Further, he considered it likely that future cremation furnaces in Sweden would be electrically heated.

In conclusion, I should be glad to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

DISCUSSION

A DELEGATE: Can each of the speakers tell us the average time of a cremation by gas and electricity?

Mr. DIAMOND: It is practically impossible to give an average time, it all depends on the size and condition. I should say 1 hour 20 minutes to 1½ hours, but sometimes it takes over two hours.

Mr. CROSSLEY: In an electric furnace, cremation takes, on an average, 1¼ to 1½ hours, but it has been known to take up to, and over, two hours.

A DELEGATE: Can Mr. Diamond tell us if there is any alteration in design to give us a cremation entirely free from smoke?

Mr. DIAMOND: Yes, the latest type of furnaces, with regulators and smoke distributors, will give a reasonably smoke-free cremation, but cannot claim to give an entirely free-from-smoke cremation.

Mr. W. T. CRESWELL, K.C.: May I just ask one short question, arising out of what was said about smoke? Has there been any summons at any time issued in respect of what is commonly known as a smoke nuisance against any local authority?

Mr. DIAMOND: I know of no summons being issued against a local authority at any time.

Councillor L. S. HOLLIS (Wandsworth): It is not my intention to put a question, but I do consider that members contemplating the erection of crematoria should be given our experience. We have had a crematorium since 1938, and, throughout this period of years, only one serious complaint of smoke has come to our committee. The smoke lasted for 20 minutes, and was the subject of a special enquiry. This led to the decision that before a body was placed in the furnace chamber, the chamber should be pre-heated to 600 degrees. Since then there has been no smoke of longer than two minutes' duration.

Alderman A. E. BERNAYS (Mortlake): Has any crematorium installed both gas and electric furnaces, and, if so, with what result?

Alderman E. R. WILLOUGHBY (Worthing): We are a burial authority and we are at the present time contemplating the question of providing a crematorium, and already we are having objections because people say the smell will be a nuisance all over the Borough. I should like to be informed as to which of the three fuels, coke electricity or gas, is less likely to give that smell, which our people are insisting will be present.

Mr. P. H. JONES: I should say coal, but I understand both these means of incineration are by-products of coal, so we are on fairly safe ground. The best answer would be, if anyone really does believe in the smell nuisance theory, at the expense of the rates take him to Wandsworth and that will convince him.

Mr. H. G. GARRETT (Brighton): I was at a crematorium recently, and heard a noise coming from the tower of the crematorium. This was very disturbing to people in the vicinity, and I was wondering whether it came from the blower.

MR. CROSSLEY : Probably the fan could be heard, but that noise can be eliminated by careful architectural planning. The fan is, of course, used in both forms of incineration. It has not been perfected yet, but experts are working out better methods of incineration.

MR. H. ROYLE : I am still seeking information on the question of gas and electricity, and I should like to have it made clear whether I am right in saying, with regard to electricity, that the electricity is cut off before, or a moment or two after, the coffin enters the incineration chamber. It is then a question of the whole coffin dissembling without any further heat at all. With regard to gas, I gather that gas jets continue to play on the coffin.

MR. DIAMOND : That is not so.

COUNCILLOR A. W. HALL (Walsall) : I suggest that plastic or bakelite coffins are the cause of a lot of smoke, and I suggest that coffins for cremation purposes should be standardised ; and, also, that undertakers be prevented from putting sawdust and other materials in coffins, which would cause smoke.

MRS. B. M. GILBERT : I think perhaps everybody in this hall who has a crematorium is well aware that the smoke bogey is really a bogey, and I would say to all of you who have come to this Conference, don't let the smoke bogey dim your view in any way.

MR. P. H. JONES : It is what you have in the coffin that matters. The Federation, some months ago, addressed itself to this particular question, and drew up a code of regulations for crematoria. Side by side with this code were instructions to funeral directors. If you will read these two documents carefully, and if you, as cremation authorities, will insist on these regulations being carried out, I have no doubt that what the Chairman says will be true. In fact, smoke is a bogey. If you allow the funeral director to put what he likes in the coffin, don't blame the furnace.

ALDERMAN J. PEARSON (Newcastle-on-Tyne) : I have much pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the two speakers for the information they have given us this afternoon. My advice would be, don't be frightened of the smoke bogey. You do come across these things sometimes, with regard to smoke, but we have to watch the undertaker.

COUNCILLOR THE REV. J. F. S. JONES (Grimsby) seconded the vote of thanks.

END OF SESSION

CONFERENCE DINNER

The delegates were the guests of the President and the Council of the Cremation Society at a Dinner held at the Grosvenor House Hotel on the evening of Thursday, the 18th July. Lord Horder presided, and in the unavoidable absence of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, M.P. (Lord Privy Seal), Alderman J. Reeves, M.P., proposed the toast : "The Cremation Movement," which was responded to by Lord Horder. Mr. Hannen Swaffer and Mr. H. D. Hughes, M.P., replied to the toast of "The Guests," proposed by Sir George Elliston, and Mr. W. R. Tattersall proposed the health of the President. The high level of the speeches combined with the efforts of the management of the hotel to ensure the success of this most enjoyable function.

THIRD SESSION

Friday, July 19th, 1946 at 10-30 a.m.

THE RT. HON. LORD HORDER, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., (President of the Cremation Society) in the Chair.

LORD HORDER : To introduce the Minister of Health to a British audience these days, especially a British audience meeting in London, is I think superfluous, but procedure is procedure, and it is my pleasure, with Mr. Royle's permission, formally to introduce Mr. Aneurin Bevan to you.

We are, of course, very pleased indeed that the Minister of Health, amongst all his duties, has found time to come along and address this Conference this morning.

Cremation is, we believe, a matter of social health, so it is proper that we should have the Minister of Health here at this conference. Secondly, I happen to know, as perhaps some of you do, that our Cremation Movement is a matter in which the Minister is personally interested, and I can assure you that he is with us in this effort we are making.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (The Rt. Hon. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P.) : Although leading a rather busy and somewhat controversial life, I nevertheless thought it was desirable that I should come along to this conference this morning if only for the purpose of identifying myself with the Cremation movement. As your President has said—and here I should like to pay, if I may, my own personal tribute to the interest and long service that Lord Horder has given to the Cremation Society, which is only one of his many beneficent activities—Cremation was first mooted as a public health reform, arising from the insanitary conditions of the cemeteries, by Sir John Simon, Medical Officer of Health for the City of London, in 1859.

CREMATION DESERVES ENCOURAGEMENT

Modern progress, however, has been very considerably accelerated, although, of course, war conditions have retarded the growth of crematoria, but the figures still show that a considerable advance has been made. In 1925 the number of crematoria was 16, in 1935, 29, and in 1945, 58. The number of cremations in 1925 was 2,270, in 1935, 9,614 and in 1945, 43,000. Therefore, it is obvious that cremation is increasing in public favour, and for that reason alone deserves encouragement. It is probably certain that were there more facilities the number of cremations would be increased. It is not for a Minister, apart from the advice he may give through his department to the public, to express favour for one form of burial as against another, especially when the subject is beset with sacerdotal enthusiasm,

FACILITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED

Nevertheless it is an obligation on the part of the Government to provide these facilities which citizens want to use ; and for persons who wish to have their relatives cremated the facilities should be there, and they ought not to be frustrated from doing so because the facilities have not been made available. It is merely a question of the citizen being able to exercise his own choice, and for the State to provide the instruments or apparatus for him to do so.

There is, of course, a very considerable limitation upon the country's resources at the present time. Important though cremation is, life is even more important, and the building of houses has first claim on the country's resources, because if we put up more and better houses there is the chance of postponing cremation.

MORE HYGIENIC THAN BURIAL

From the health point of view, there is no doubt that cremation is a much more speedy and hygienic disposal than burial. It substitutes a comfortable chapel for the service to that of the graveside, and as I have been a victim of some burial services on the Welsh hillsides I very deeply appreciate that point.

SAVING URBAN LAND

Cremation, of course, reduces the demand for new ground for burial. This is a consideration—a growing consideration ; in this small island of ours it is of some importance. We have been devoting our land to so very many urban purposes in the last 150 years that unless we are extremely careful, the country will consist of asphalt and burial grounds. We are suffering from the short-sightedness of the past, and consequently every urban acre becomes more valuable every year. Cremation offers a valuable alternative to earth burial, which takes these needed acres, a fact which local authorities now appreciate. Where local authorities are too small to undertake the service themselves, then they should join together for that purpose.

In conclusion I would like to point out that cremation has always been advocated by the medical profession as being one of the most important contributions towards the maintenance of public health.

I wish your conference every success and everything that lies within my power, having regard to the limitations of the circumstances, I certainly will do my very best to render.

SIR GEORGE ELLISTON, M.C., M.A., J.P., (Chairman of Council of the Cremation Society) : I am sure you would wish to express very heartily our appreciation of the Minister's visit here this morning. The President has allowed me the privilege of stating on his behalf how grateful we all are here that the Minister of Health could spare the time, when he has so many important matters to attend to, to come here and address us to-day and to give us so much encouragement, and I am sure that we are all very grateful to him for coming here this morning.

MR. H. ROYLE (Chairman of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities) : I appreciate the many calls the Minister has on his time and I would like to associate myself with Sir George Elliston's remarks, and to thank Mr. Bevan for coming along this morning and for his encouraging remarks.

MR. ANEURIN BEVAN : Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT then vacated the Chair, which was taken by MR. HUGH ROYLE.

"CREMATION REGULATIONS"

MR. H. ROYLE : At this morning's session we are to hear a paper by Mr. Clifford Heyworth, who, as you will see from the Agenda, is Town Clerk of Richmond and Clerk to the Mortlake Crematorium Board, still the only Joint Crematorium Board in the country. I hope it will not be long before this is joined by many others.

The Minister has referred to the desirability of smaller local authorities, who are too small to justify an individual crematorium, joining together with other members and establishing one for the use of all.

I won't take up your time, because I understand this is a fairly lengthy paper, and I want to leave as much time as possible for discussion. I propose to adopt the precedent established yesterday by Mrs. Gilbert, of clearing the ground for questions from the hall and then inviting those who desire to comment on the paper and offer further suggestions for the clarification of the Law to come on to the platform and address the Conference.

Without taking any more of your time, I call upon Mr. Clifford Heyworth to give you his paper.

MR. CLIFFORD HEYWORTH (Town Clerk of Richmond and Clerk to the Mortlake Crematorium Board) : I have been asked to speak this morning on the subject of the Cremation Regulations—in other words, on the law governing Cremation.

I gladly accept the invitation and, if the Conference will allow me, I will record my pleasure in appearing under the Chairmanship of Mr. Hugh Royle, a former Town Clerk of Hammersmith and my predecessor in the office of Clerk to the Mortlake Crematorium Board.

Most invitees in similar circumstances can think of many other names which could have been more appropriately chosen. I am no exception and I rather imagine that I have probably been

approached for two reasons :—first, because I have not overlong been actively connected with the administration of the law relating to cremation and might conceivably, therefore, bring a fresh mind to the subject, and, secondly, because I happen to be the clerk to the only crematorium which is jointly owned by several local authorities and is run by a joint board representative of such authorities.

Certain results seem naturally to follow from the two reasons to which I have referred. One is that in re-stating the existing law, reference should be made to the amendments which I feel should be incorporated so that the law may be brought up to date to meet existing public need and to keep pace with the march of progress.

In adopting this course, I must, however, make it quite clear that I alone am responsible for any suggestions I may make—I cannot plead that I represent even the Mortlake Crematorium Board, still less the Cremation Society or the Federation of British Cremation Authorities.

The suggestions which I shall make, however, will be so incidental to the increasing support which is being given to cremation and the change of outlook, which has gradually but all the more surely taken place during the last 50 years, that I hope that the two National Bodies will feel that they can unreservedly support my suggestions.

The other result which would seem to follow is that I might be excused if, in reciting the bare (and somewhat dry) details of the law, I should digress to touch upon the operation of cremation in practice as operated by a joint board under the existing law.

The Cremation Society was formed in 1874 and in 1878 land was purchased at Woking for the erection of the first crematorium. Delegates can read a most informative account of the origins of cremation and of the signatories to the original charter for cremation in the book " Cremation in Great Britain," edited by Mr. P. Herbert Jones and published by the Pharos Press for the Cremation Society.

At that time, there was no written law concerning cremation. In 1882, the Cremation Society was requested by Captain Hanham to cremate the bodies of two of his deceased relatives ; Home Office permission was sought and refused, whereupon Capt. Hanham proceeded to cremate the bodies himself. The Government took no action, but the public was interested. The second event, in 1884, was the trial of Dr. William Price, at Cardiff Assizes, for the cremation of his child. On this occasion, the Court held that cremation was a legal method of the disposal of the dead.

After this, cremation at Woking, though slow, went ahead, but it was not until 1902, when the Cremation Act of that year was passed, that we had any written law upon the subject. In the meantime, the founders of the movement at Woking, being surrounded by an atmosphere of public emotionalism and the fear in the public mind that cremation might give escape to the murderer, had necessarily to institute their own rules governing cremation.

This they did, and so scrupulous were they in their work that their self-imposed regulations differed very little from the provisions of the 1902 Act. We cremationists recognise an obligation to the founders of the Cremation Society.

The Cremation Act, 1902, is still the first and only public general Statute relating solely to cremation—two other Acts relating to cremation have since been passed by Parliament, but both of them are private Acts, relating to the Mortlake Crematorium.

The 1902 Act is very short, 14 sections, and briefly stated, the objects of the Act are :—

1. To authorise burial authorities to establish crematoria as well as burial grounds ; and
2. To subject the practice of cremation by any person whatsoever to the regulations which the Home Secretary is authorised to issue.

As to the Provision of a Crematorium.

Under Section 1, a burial authority as therein defined, and meaning an authority having the powers and duties of a burial board or maintaining a cemetery under the Public Health (Interments) Act, 1879, may provide and maintain a crematorium.

Obviously, therefore, a local authority which is not a burial authority cannot provide a crematorium. There will not, I assume, be many local authorities who, not being burial authorities, yet wish to provide and establish a crematorium—but there will doubtless be some, and I do submit to you that the law in this respect should be amended so as to make the power to provide a crematorium universal to local authorities and not restricted in this way. I can see no reason why the power to establish a crematorium should be dependent upon the local authority being a burial authority as defined and we must remember that unless the law is altered in this respect there is no way round the problem facing such a local authority apart from the promotion of private legislation. Such an authority cannot adopt the Burial Acts to enable it to provide a crematorium because, as you will remember, Section 25 of the Burial Act requires that a Burial Board shall with all convenient speed proceed to provide a burial ground.

Important as that point is in the illustration just furnished, we see it in a much more practical aspect when we consider the application of the present restricted enabling power to the desires of a combination of local authorities jointly to provide a crematorium.

If several local authorities desire jointly to provide a crematorium, they may do so, and if they

are *all* burial or cemetery authorities they can constitute a joint committee under Section 91 of the Local Government Act, 1933, which is applied to Metropolitan Borough Councils by Section 97 of that Act. But if it so happens that any one of those proposed authorities is not a burial authority as defined, it will, as the law stands at the moment, be necessary to promote private legislation.

The more practical aspect illustrated in the proposed combination of authorities arises from the necessarily wider incidence of the meaningless restriction.

I have not yet seen the presidential address which Lord Horder gave to the Conference yesterday. He may conceivably have referred to the forecast which he made in his presidential address to the Cremation Section of the Burial and Cremation Authorities' Conference at Portsmouth, in 1939. At such Conference, he said, " during the last year, in 1938, 16,312 persons were cremated in Britain, compared with 3,436 in 1926. In the same period the number of crematoria rose from 18 to 47. At the present rate of municipal enterprise, 250 crematoria might be expected in 20 years, and, with an average of 1,000 cremations each, the annual total would be 250,000, or half the present death rate.

From the number of references which I have seen in the technical journal of the Cremation Society, " Pharos," and in other published sources, I can well understand that the President's forecast as to the number of new crematoria will possibly be exceeded, notwithstanding the lack of building caused by the war and the fact that even now local authorities will have to take their place in the queue, because of the need for economy in the use of capital, labour and materials.

I understand that the Minister is at present suggesting that, as a rough guide, the minimum necessary population for the provision of a crematorium may be taken as 100,000. This confirms, quite apart from the published statements, that quite obviously a large number of the new crematoria will be provided by combined authorities, which stresses the need for an alteration in the law.

In passing, delegates might be interested in some evidence readily at hand which more than substantiates Lord Horder's estimate. You will remember that he referred to crematoria having, in 20 years' time, an average of 1,000 cremations each.

The Mortlake Crematorium, provided jointly by Acton, Barnes, Hammersmith and Richmond, was opened in January, 1939. The number of cremations undertaken there in the intervening financial years (ending 31st March each year) are as follows :—

1939	..	..	62
1940	..	..	392
1941	..	..	572
1942	..	..	564
1943	..	..	647
1944	..	..	808
1945	..	..	926
1946	..	..	1043

Incidentally, the Crematorium Board reports to the constituent authorities the number of residents cremated during each quarter, and we in Richmond have found on occasions that 40—50% of Richmond residents have been cremated, as compared with those buried in our burial grounds and cemeteries.

This figure also sheds some light on Lord Horder's forecast that in 20 years' time approximately half the population might be cremated.

Apart from London, the large centres of the population occur in the North of England. We, as cremationists, are naturally pleased with the progress report which I present, but, having heard some rumours apparently current in the North, to the effect that London is tardy and apparently given to copying, we look forward to even greater progress reports from our Northern colleagues, especially as we recall that, following Woking, the next Crematoria to be built were : 1892, Manchester ; 1895, Glasgow ; 1896, Liverpool ; 1901, Darlington and Hull.

If the responsible Minister alters the law in the way I have indicated, quite a material amount of public funds in the promotion of private legislation will be saved and there are probably other good uses to which such money can be placed in these days of extending public services.

Returning to the Cremation Act of 1902, we find a proviso that no human remains shall be burned in any crematorium provided by a Burial Authority until the plans and site thereof have been approved by the Ministry of Health and until the crematorium has been certified by the burial authority to be complete, built in accordance with such plans and properly equipped for the purpose of the disposal of human remains by burning. It is only local authorities which are subject to this control, which, I submit, is a proper one, and I suggest that the law should be amended to make private enterprise subject to similar safeguards.

We now come to Section 5 of the Act, and a most important provision, and one which will be claiming the attention, in these days, of Town Clerks and Borough Engineers. The section reads, " No crematorium shall be constructed nearer to any dwelling house than 200 yards, except with the consent, in writing, of the owner, lessee and occupier of such house, nor within 50 yards of any public highway, nor in the consecrated part of the burial ground of any burial authority."

Enquiries have been received from some local authorities as to the interpretation which is to be placed upon this section. You will notice that the section uses the word "constructed" and it is considered, notwithstanding the clause defining "Crematorium" that the distance is to be calculated from the actual furnace chamber.

The fact that the interpretation of the section has caused the enquiries does show that while, fortunately for us as lawyers, a statute will always require judicial interpretation, yet the clause can be made clearer in its meaning and I hope the opportunity will be taken to do so when amending legislation is introduced.

But, this is a relatively small point, the sting in the section is in the unnecessarily restricted provision as to distances. The amazing contrast which will immediately occur to you is the analogous stipulation governing cemeteries. Section 10 of the Cemeteries Clauses Act, 1847, provides that no part of the cemetery shall be constructed nearer to a dwelling house than 100 yards, except with the consent, in writing, of the owner, lessee and occupier of such house.

Can anyone really say that there is any nuisance at all arising from a crematorium, or, alternatively, can anyone really say that they would not as soon live near a crematorium as a cemetery. Actually, I would much prefer to live near a crematorium than be the required distance from a cemetery—but then I am a cremationist and consequently a biassed witness—I wonder what a biassed witness on the other side would be called. Someone has said, " If you don't want to be a rotter while you are alive—why be one when you die? "—personally, I prefer to call our opposite numbers " decaydents".

In 1847 it was probably quite easy so to site cemeteries as to be 100 yards distant from any houses, but with continued development, we find boroughs so extensively built up that some of them are having to seek land for burial grounds 10 and 15 miles from their borough boundaries. This is no exaggeration—particularly in the London area—and even when they find the land, nobody wants them. The same does not apply with equal force to crematoria, because of the small amount of land which is thereby required—but the effect of the statutory distances, so unnecessarily imposed, is requiring some authorities of a largely built up nature to seek land for a crematorium well outside the borough boundaries. This inevitably causes hardship to mourners, who continue to desire regularly to visit the gardens of rest and remembrance attached to a crematorium where a loved one has been cremated.

I do appeal to you all, and to the Government, to take into account the tremendous saving of land and public money which is resulting from the growing popularity of cremation.

I call in aid another extract from Lord Horder's presidential speech in 1938. Referring to his forecast, he said, " Among the possible social and economic effects of this great change, there would first be a great saving in urban land at present used for cemeteries. On the basis of 1,000 graves to the acre, cremation would save 250 acres each year in urban areas. To put it another way, since the need of playing fields in a policy of national fitness was recognised, each crematorium would save the space of one football ground each year."

If he were giving the same presidential address now, he might also refer to the housing sites which would thus be made available.

Speaking of the economic factor, Lord Horder says, " it has been estimated that there was an average loss, paid out of the rates, of more than £2 for every burial. The ratepayers of this country have to meet annually a bill of at least £1,000,000 for the perpetuation of the burial system."

These were on 1938 values—and these figures could be halved in 20 years if his forecast be true.

In this respect it will, I think, be interesting to quote the financial position at the Mortlake Crematorium. The annual expenditure of the Board amounts to about £6,500 and, although the Board may require the constituent authorities to contribute in proportion to their population the amount of any excess of expenditure over income, no such contribution has been called for in respect of the years 1944, 1945 and 1946, as the whole of the expenditure of those years has been covered by receipts and balances in hand.

I instance these facts as evidence supporting the urgent need for reformation of those penalising provisions respecting distance. Crematoria are not public services to be relegated to the background and placed out of sight. They can be distinct architectural assets and, as you who already operate crematoria know, there is no possible nuisance—not even from smoke, which is non-existent in a modern, well-equipped undertaking.

Indeed, a case comes to my mind, which I commend to the Ministry, where the best residential development has taken place in the portion of an estate nearest to the crematorium and the instance will not, I feel confident, be isolated in cases where the erection of a crematorium precedes the development of the surrounding area.

Although the gardens of rest and remembrance do form an attractive feature of a crematorium, they are not necessarily so placed as to overcome the statutory distances and I do urge the Government to take serious account of these provisions and to provide legislation revoking them completely. If this be not considered possible, I do ask, at least, that we should be placed in no worse statutory position than cemeteries, and that the rule as to 100 yards should be substituted for

the 200 yards and the provision as to 50 yards for a public highway should be deleted.

I imagine that an alteration in the requirements of this section will be almost automatic. The London County Council obtained a General Powers Act in 1935, by Section 64 of which it is provided that in the application of Section 5 of the Cremation Act, 1902, to a Metropilitan Borough Council, the restriction imposed by that section upon the construction of a Crematorium near to a dwelling house shall not apply with reference to any dwelling house situate at a greater distance than 100 yards from the site of a proposed crematorium nor to any new dwelling house.

Section 6 of the Act provides that a burial authority may accept a donation of land for the purpose of a crematorium and a donation of money or other property for enabling them to acquire, construct or maintain a crematorium. I trust that many of the delegates in their forthcoming adventures will obtain the blessings of this section. If you concur, I suggest that we don't make any overtures to Parliament for any amendment. Probably without our asking, some Chancellor of the Exchequer, finding his income over-subscribed may agree that such donations to local authorities can rank as part payment of death duties.

Regulations Governing Practice of Cremation

Having now touched upon the provision of crematoria, we will turn our attention to the regulations governing the practice of cremation.

Section 7 of the Act stipulates that the Secretary of State small make regulations, among other things, prescribing the form of the notices, certificates and declarations to be given or made before any such burning is permitted to take place, such declarations to be made under and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act, 1835.

The Statutory Rules and Orders made under this section provide that it shall not be lawful to cremate the remains of any person who is known to have left a written direction to the contrary and also that it shall not be lawful to cremate human remains which have not been identified.

Under the Regulations, a Statutory Declaration has to be completed in the form prescribed, being the actual application for cremation. The application must be signed and the Statutory Declaration made by an executor, or by the nearest surviving relative of the deceased.

This form (known as Form A) contains a series of questions concerning the time and place of death, etc., which furnishes the Medical Referee with valuable information, and the form itself brings home to the applicant the possibility of enquiry into the answers supplied. Undoubtedly Form A is required—quite apart from anything else—it certifies whether the deceased left any written directions as to the mode of disposal of his remains.

In addition, two medical certificates are required by the regulations, the first (Form B) is filled in by the doctor who attended the deceased prior to his death—it contains 18 most searching questions and is a most valuable and reliable safeguard—it is obligatory on the doctor to see and identify the body after death and he has to complete the certificate after such view.

The second medical certificate (Form C) is the confirmatory one and has to be completed by a Medical Practitioner who is neither a relative of the deceased nor a relative or partner of the Medical Practitioner who has given the certificate in Form B.

All these papers then go to the Medical Referee —every cremation authority is required by the Regulations to have a Medical Referee and a Deputy Medical Referee, who must be registered medical practitioners of not less than 5 years standing and must possess such experience and qualifications as will fit them for the discharge of the duties required of them by the Regulations. The Medical Referee may be a person holding the office of Medical Officer of Health.

He performs legal and quasi-judicial functions and he must satisfy himself that the cause of death has been clearly and definitely ascertained.

As I said at the opening of my paper, we owe a great debt to the founders of cremation in this country. They had to found and promote the movement in days when the system was unpopular, frowned on and the subject of emotionalism. It was largely on their self-imposed requirements that the subsequent Act and Regulations were based. Those days are happily past and I suggest that it behoves us to consider the ways and means by which the necessary and essential safeguards can be preserved.

The Statutory Declaration which we have referred to (Form A) has, under the present regulations, necessarily to be declared before a Justice of the Peace or a Commissioner for Oaths. I have heard of cases where it has been very difficult for relatives just at one of the worst times in their lives, when they are bereaved and distraught, to find a Justice of the Peace who was available. We have grown so used in our modern way of life to signing important documents which contain before the signature a certificate that the contents are true with attendant penalties that I do suggest that the need for a Statutory Declaration should be thoroughly considered, to see whether some more modern precedent cannot be used instead.

Some of the forms which are now almost an everyday occurrence of life are required to be signed in the presence of some well-known persons, such as Members or Clerks to Local

Authorities, Ministers of Religion, Doctors, Schoolmasters and such like, and, if it be thought to be necessary for the form to be signed in the presence of someone, I do urge that even this should be substituted in the amending legislation for the Statutory Declaration which is at present required.

I think we will all agree that the Medical Certificate (Form B) by the deceased's own Medical Practitioner should be continued—which, in its present searching form, forms an essential and deliberate safeguard. It is difficult to see that any modification can be made with respect to the confirmatory medical certificate. It has throughout been required as a check upon the actions of the relative and the patient's doctor and I feel that Certificate C should be retained in its present form or in a manner substantially to the like effect.

Incidentally, in respect of burial, the doctor attending the patient is not, even now, under an obligation to view the body after death. I feel that that is a weakness in the present law, which is not generally appreciated, but as we are here only to consider the law of cremation, it does not concern us at this moment.

The Regulations make no reference to the subject of the fees which can be charged for the Medical Certificate, which, in consequence, vary widely. Examples can be quoted of high fees which have been charged, and practice dictates that some standardisation should be secured by the Government in conjunction with the British Medical Association. It may be that the institution in the near future of the proposed National Health Service may contain appropriate provisions. If these have not yet been contemplated, I would ask that the Government should seek standardisation and that consideration of the subject should be given in the drafting of the new Public Health Services.

I cannot help feeling that the requirement of the confirmatory Certificate (Form C) is in the nature of a requirement for the sake of public protection—and for this reason one is bound to suggest that the cost thereof should be borne out of public funds. The benefits which quite obviously accrue from cremation to the general public would also seem to dictate that this step should be taken. It is present in my mind that possibly the granting of the confirmatory medical certificate could be the responsibility of a public medical official—as, for example, a Medical Officer of Health—and possibly the suggested public health service may be taken as the opportunity for taking this question into consideration.

Under Section 9 of the Cremation Act, 1902, the burial authority (as previously defined) may demand payment of any such charges or fees for the cremation as may be authorised by any table approved by the Minister of Health. As the delegates will recall, there is a somewhat similar requirement in respect of burial in a local authority's burial ground or cemetery.

Having referred to the practice relating to cremation, I would like to mention two other points—one has occurred to me in studying the Cremation Act—the other has been encountered in practice.

I do not know whether there are any delegates here representing authorities in Northern Ireland. If so, they will be sorry to see that the Act does not apply to Ireland. There will, I am sure, be authorities in Northern Ireland, which will wish to establish crematoria and new and amending legislation should be made to apply to our friends over there. This may, however, be a matter for the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

Secondly, there are certain old Acts, chiefly concerning public bodies who have a responsibility to dispose of the human remains of the dead and, because the Acts in question were passed before cremation was thought of—still less before it held the field—the word "bury" is used, with a result that such authorities are not allowed to cremate.

I would suggest that a clause should be inserted in our hoped-for legislation, so that whenever the word " bury " is used in such a context, the authority shall be able to cremate if the persons concerned have not expressed a contrary desire in writing. This would affect Public Assistance and other authorities, but not, of course, anybody having the duty to dispose of unidentified remains.

In conclusion, may I take the opportunity to summarise the amendments which I suggest to the Government for their earnest consideration in the new legislation, which I hope they will introduce to give cremation the benefits it deserves and the amelioration to which I believe it to be entitled for the public service which the movement is performing :—

1. The power to provide a crematorium should be given to local authorities and not restricted to burial authorities.
2. That the approval of the Ministry of Health shall be required to the plans and site of crematoria provided otherwise than by local authorities, in the same way as the requirement applies to crematoria provided by local authorities.
3. That Section 5 of the Cremation Act, 1902, relating to the distances at which crematoria must be erected from houses and public highways be revised and that, at least, the provisions of Section 64 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1935, be made applicable throughout the country.
4. That Form A to be completed by the Executor or nearest relative of the deceased be revised

by the provision of alternative safeguards, so that it need not be taken before a Justice of the Peace or a Commissioner for Oaths.

5. That fees payable to Medical Practitioners for completing the Medical Certificates (Forms B and C) be standardised.
6. That the cost of the provision of the Confirmatory Medical Certificate (Form C) be borne by public funds.
7. That, in conjunction with the proposed Public Health Services, consideration be given to the possible issue of the Confirmatory Medical Certificate (Form C) by a Medical Practitioner employed in a public office.
8. That (if the power should be vested in Parliament) the legislation relating to cremation should be extended to Northern Ireland.
9. That, whenever a responsibility is thrown upon a public authority to " bury " by an old statute, the power should be amended to allow of cremation in such cases wherever appropriate, provided the patient has not expressed a wish to the contrary.

DISCUSSION

COUNCILLOR E. KAVANAGH (Leeds): Is it not a fact that the Medical Officer of Health in some districts signs the confirmatory certificates?

MR. HEYWORTH: Yes, that is so.

W. T. CRESWELL, K.C. (Vice-President, the Royal Sanitary Institute): On the question of notice, the lecturer said that instructions must be left by the deceased before he can be cremated. I understood the executor could do that, or some other person, and, if not, I have done wrong, because only a short time ago I swore before a Commissioner of Oaths in respect to a very celebrated doctor whom I knew desired to be cremated, and he was cremated. Another point, is it a fact that the distance is not taken, as is suggested by the law, from the furnace, but it is always taken from what is known to be the curtilage of the buildings?

MR. C. HEYWORTH: I think possibly I did not make myself clear. The cremation regulations say that an executor or the nearest relative of the deceased should not cremate the body if instructions are left to the contrary. As to the buildings from which the distance should be measured, I have given you my own opinion of the interpretation of the law, which is that it should be measured from the actual furnace chamber. To differ on a legal point, however, is nothing unusual between lawyers.

COUNCILLOR R. E. H. MOULDER (Gloucester): With regard to the distance at which a crematorium can be built to houses, is it possible to erect houses near a crematorium?

MR. HEYWORTH: Yes. You will often find that the better type of house is erected near a crematorium after the crematorium has been erected.

MR. F. J. SMITH (City Engineer—Peterborough): My authority have been seeking a suitable site for a crematorium, and have now found a first class site in natural surroundings and have approached the owner, who refuses to sell. When the new legislation is introduced, I consider compulsory power of purchase should be extended to the purchase of sites for crematoria. Does the lecturer agree?

MR. HEYWORTH: Yes, obviously I do believe that public need must come first.

ALDERMAN A. STARK (Hull): Firstly, Mr. Heyworth made a point with regard to the fees that can be charged for the medical certificates. Everyone knows that the medical profession is 100% trade union. Secondly, what is a reasonable fee for the medical officer's duties? For the last three years in Hull, the Medical Officer of Health issues certificates as part and parcel of his normal duties.

A DELEGATE: Is it true that the cost at Mortlake is very much higher than elsewhere?

MR. HEYWORTH: I shall be very pleased to furnish the speaker with one of our prospectuses so that he can see the fees for himself. I believe we charge £4 4s. 0d. at Mortlake for a cremation.

ALDERMAN A. STARK (Hull): We charge " nowt".

COUNCILLOR B. DRAKE (Morecambe and Heysham): My authority is one of two local authorities who are contemplating, and hope in the near future to provide, crematoria. I would like to put the point that I consider that the amenities outside the site of a crematorium should be safeguarded, and I would suggest that there should be standardised equipment for fitting a crematorium so that there should be no fumes or smoke, and this should be laid down as a basis generally for adoption by the Minister of Health.

COUNCILLOR A. W. HALL (Walsall): We are looking round for neighbouring authorities to co-operate with us in providing a crematorium, but they are not favourably disposed towards the constitution of a Joint Board. Is it practicable to adopt the chapel in an existing cemetery and convert it into a crematorium, even though it were within the 200 yards radius?

MR. HEYWORTH: With regard to the provision of a crematorium in an existing cemetery chapel, I think you had better talk that point over with Mr. Stayley Brookes.

ALDERMAN R. I. CONSTANTINE (Accrington): I think it would certainly help many local authorities if the distance that crematoria have to be from houses were reduced from 200 yards to 100 yards, and I urge that municipal authorities should bring the matter before Parliament. I consider county councils are taking far more powers, and, if they do take over the provision of crematoria, it will be undoubtedly a great blow to the smaller local authorities.

MR. H. ROYLE: In 1935 I personally gave evidence in favour of the 200 yards being reduced to 100 in London, and the Bill of the L.C.C. was successful, and what is good enough for London is good enough for Accrington. I think it will take an awful long time for the Conference suggestions to be put together, but I would remind the Conference that the consent of near residents could be obtained to the erection of a crematorium.

COUNCILLOR A. O. PURDY (Newport and Eatcombe, I.O.W.): Must there be a minimum population of 100,000 in an area before a crematorium can be erected? There are 13 small local authorities on the Island, and if we have to wait for 100,000 inhabitants, we shall have to wait a good many years, and at the moment we have plans, etc., with the Ministry of Health.

MR. HEYWORTH: No. I suggest that you will have to combine for the provision of a crematorium. The Minister is at present suggesting that the population should be round about 100,000.

ALDERMAN E. R. WILLOUGHBY (Worthing): I would like to ask a question which perhaps will test the knowledge of the learned Town Clerk of Richmond. In Worthing we have a fairly new cemetery at the junction of two class A roads. The amount of land round is in the region of 100 acres, and only 15 or 20 acres are in use or even consecrated for use. We are actually pursuing at the present time the question of acquiring land for a crematorium. The land in this existing cemetery has two very large frontages on these two class A roads. Without any doubt the value of this frontage land is four times the value of the land we are wishing to acquire for crematorium purposes. Is it likely that the Ministry of Health will allow us to sell this very valuable land so that the money can be devoted to the authorities for our new crematorium? That is my question.

MR. HEYWORTH: I am not here this morning to perform the functions of Worthing's Town Clerk or any other Town Clerk, and Worthing will have to make the necessary application and wait and see with what result.

COUNCILLOR A. VESEY, J.P., (Altrincham): I would like to say something which may be rather a bombshell to our learned friend with regard to his main contention under his recommendation A. We, in the borough of Altrincham, have a population of 40,000 and recently, after two years' discussion with our neighbouring authorities, we have formed a Joint Board and this Joint Board came into existence on the 1st July this year, so I think we are in the position of being interested in view of various statements which have been made. In the preliminary discussion with our members, they agreed to ask, in an order, for power to cremate. The procedure for obtaining the order was for each authority to pass a Statutory Declaration and a joint petition to the Ministry. The point is, we did obtain this order and subsequently the Minister's confirmation that we had the power under existing regulation to establish a crematorium. The population of the district covered is 75,000 and the population of neighbouring areas which will be served by the proposed crematorium is 100,000. Of the interested authorities, Altrincham is a Burial Authority and none of the others are. It is not necessary for local authorities to promote private Bills to obtain powers. In connection with the Statutory Declaration, Form A, as a J.P., I can say that people have no trouble whatever in obtaining my services, at any rate. I sign, on an average, about 40 forms every year, and I see no purpose in altering the legal requirements as regards the Statutory Declaration, but I do, however, suggest that these Statutory Declarations should be for an earth burial and that a person should be cremated unless he or she has expressed a wish otherwise.

ALDERMAN E. BERNAYS (Mortlake): I doubt if any member of this Conference can suggest any reason why the executor of a person who wants to be cremated should be the only person in this country who has to prove his innocence of murder. More and more people are wishing to be cremated, but if I want to cremate somebody, I have to pay for two medical certificates, whereas if I commit a murder, I am not even charged with the rope. As Mr. Heyworth said, the medical certificates ought to be paid for by the public, it is for the public protection and it is only fair that the public should bear that expense. I cannot help thinking that the Ministry of Health would have some headaches over the other need; the other need is the £20 death benefit.

DR. C. F. WHITE, O.B.E., (M.O.H. of the City of London): For the past 10 years, I have probably signed, without any fee, 3,000 or 4,000 certificates. I signed them as a Medical Referee to an authority who had powers to cremate. Mr. Heyworth suggests that we should proceed with all three forms, A, B and C. My own view is that they are quite unnecessary in their present form, and I would certainly like to eliminate the second Medical Certificate. With regard to the Statutory Declaration, if you want to popularise cremation, you want to make it as little trouble as possible to people.

MR. W. R. TATTERSALL: I would like to express my own appreciation to Mr. Heyworth for having presented his lecture in such an interesting and instructive manner. As the last speaker said, very accurately and very wisely, it is up to all of us interested in cremation to facilitate things so that they are made as easy and simple as possible, and not more difficult. I believe that payment for a medical certificate should be made by persons who can afford it at a reasonable charge.

MR. H. ROYLE: To send resolutions forward for consideration by the Minister of Health at this stage may be a little premature, because, taking the point of the second certificate, it requires a little consideration, so may I make a suggestion that the several points in this paper by Mr. Heyworth, be forwarded to the new Cremation Council of Great Britain for consideration by 12 representatives of the Cremation Society and 12 from the Federation, with a view to their making strong, urgent and early representation to the Government department concerned on all the matters therein contained.

A DELEGATE: I beg to move that the recommendations as put forth by Mr. Royle, be accepted.

COUNCILLOR W. J. PERKINS (Margate): I second this resolution.

(*The resolution was carried unanimously.*)

MR. H. SYKES (Member of Council of the Cremation Society): I have the greatest possible pleasure in thanking this morning's lecturer, Mr. Heyworth, for his very interesting and instructive paper.

ALDERMAN A. J. MAKER (Reading): I wish to second the vote of thanks to Mr. Heyworth for his valuable paper, which, I hope, will help us to achieve the alteration of the Law which we are all seeking.

END OF SESSION

FOURTH SESSION

Friday, July 19th, 1946, at 2-0 p.m.

MR. W. R. TATTERSALL (Vice-Chairman of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities) in the Chair.

"THE NEED FOR THE SITING AND PLANNING OF CREMATORIA"

Mr. W. R. TATTERSALL : It is now time to resume our Conference, the subject of which this afternoon is, as you know, "The need for the Siting and Planning of Crematoria". We are particularly fortunate in having with us this afternoon, to open the subject for us, none other than Mr. Fred Marshall, J.P., M.P., who is, as you know, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and who, incidentally, has done a great deal to help through the Commons the New Towns Bill which had its third reading a few days ago.

Mr. Marshall has had many years' experience of Local Authority work in Sheffield, of which City he has been the Lord Mayor, before which he was Chairman of the Town Planning Committee. There is, therefore, no person more fitting than he to address this Conference this afternoon.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (MR. FRED MARSHALL, J.P., M.P.) : The circumstances surrounding the death and disposal of human beings excite our deepest feelings. The sudden cessation of life's continuity gives us a sense of great loss, deep sorrow and mental anguish, and it is not unnatural that in connection with it all there has grown up a solemn and impressive ritual in which the mourners look to the consolations of religion to soften and blunt the sharp edge of their sorrow and which fits the whole ceremony into an appropriate religious setting.

It is inevitable that where man's most sacred feelings are involved strong prejudices will develop, forms and customs will become settled and any change, no matter how desirable, will only come very slowly : as in the process of the evolution of thought and belief our minds expand to new and wider conceptions to which we can relate our ideas about the disposal of the dead.

FITTING AND BEAUTIFUL

I here express purely a personal view when I say that for a time I have felt that there is something fitting and perhaps a little beautiful in the idea that our bodies when life's vitality has departed, should be dissolved into the great eternal elements. The feeling that what is left of us can by a quick process be transmuted into the great elemental forces of the universe, there to be refined by the alchemy of nature and perhaps incorporated into new forms of life and beauty has always appealed to me as rather a romantic adventure and full of glorious possibilities.

It is well said that "there is nothing new under the sun," and both burial and cremation go back into the remote mists of time. Those of you who have read the great Volsunga Saga of William Morris will remember the dramatic power with which he describes the burning of the bodies of Sigard and Brunhilda on a vast funeral pyre under the open canopy of heaven. To an imaginative mind there is a touch of grandeur in such a leave-taking : it is a clean and final break and leaves us with our memories of the departed unclouded by the thought of what is taking place in the earth in the slow process of material dissolution.

MORBIDITY OF CEMETERIES

I will confess that I can never contemplate a large cemetery without a feeling of morbidity and sadness. It is impossible to make them physically beautiful things. Their imposing entrances screen thousands of tombstones which express physically the desire of thousands of relatives to perpetuate the memories of their loved ones. What should be an opportunity for silent meditation and quiet recollection becomes more or less a distracting contemplation of a great concourse of the dead.

Our minds are always met by the full impact of the mysteries of death by seeing the evidences of mass disposal. Those are some of the reasons why I am an advocate of cremation.

HEALING BALM OF NATURE

Crematoria provide us with an opportunity of associating with disposal a memory of beautiful things. Instead of a bleak and wind-swept cemetery, we should be surrounded by beautiful and dignified architecture—in which the services and consolations of religion can be reverently administered. Instead of gazing on serried ranks of tombstones, we should wander in a lovely garden and allow the healing balm of nature to mix with our memories of the departed. There would be places of rest and quiet contemplation beautified by the skill of the gardener, all designed to soften and soothe our sorrows. To me this has always seemed the better way and I see nothing in it to outrage the susceptibilities of the most sensitive individual.

Hitherto I have been expressing a purely personal view, and holding that view I cannot help but feel gratified at the progress made during the last twenty years and the general evidence to suggest that the public mind is becoming more

attuned to the idea of cremation. An increase of crematoria from 16 to 58 and an increase in cremations from 2,701 to 43,000 shows considerable progress ; but it is when we consider that no less than 200 Local Authorities are proposing in their forward plans to provide for crematoria that we realise the extent of that changed attitude.

PLAN FOR BEAUTY

The provision of crematoria now definitely falls within the schemes of Local Planning Authorities. It has ceased to be a matter of experiment and compromise where our first tentative approach induced us to place these buildings within the boundaries of our cemeteries. Such a policy would never allow us to develop crematoria to the ideal I have been trying to enunciate.

I want to see these places made as beautiful as possible, away from the regimented gloom of cemeteries, and that can only be done if we plan for them in accordance with the principle of good sound planning.

It seems to me there are vast possibilities on these lines. It is something that should give rise to a seemly and dignified architecture and exercise the genius of the landscape designer and the gardener, and surround these sad ceremonies with a vision of beauty.

It is, therefore, in that spirit that I address these few words to you to-day on the occasion of your Annual Conference.

BEST INTERESTS OF NATION

Our Town and Country Planning Ministry is now engaged on a vast creative task in which we are concerned with the part-reconstruction of many of our old towns and the building of new ones. Stated broadly, our function is to ensure that the land of the country is used in the best interests of the nation.

It is therefore imperative and necessary that in this spacious Planning we should look well ahead and make ample provision for a service that is winning an increasing public sanction—one that will economise our precious land and one that will maintain all the decencies which surround a reverent disposal of the dead.

May I finally express my admiration of your pioneering work and the hope that an increasing body of public support will enable you to bring it to a fruitful realisation.

DISCUSSION

ALDERMAN MRS. S. J. HAYWARD (Mayor of Newport, Mon.) : It is just as easy and just as cheap to build something that is beautiful and pleasing to the eye as it is to build something that is ugly and an absolute eyesore.

MR. MARSHALL : It is quite as easy and no more costly to make a thing beautiful, and the Ministry will do everything in its power to do so.

MR. W. T. CRESWELL, K.C. : Do I understand Mr. Marshall to say that, in his view, from the moment the first resolution of the local authority to town plan is made, they should at once go into the question of a site for crematoria ? Secondly, would he say that under the Act of 1932, local authorities are only empowered to engage architects, or does it also include landscape architects, so that crematoria can be included in what is known as the plan ?

MR. MARSHALL : My answer to that is that I see nothing in the 1932 Act that will prevent a local authority from engaging a landscape designer to plan a provision for its crematorium. When a local authority passes a resolution, it can pass a resolution and deal with part of its order or the whole of its order, and there is nothing, as far as I can see, that will prevent a local authority from planning a crematorium ; but I hope that, before very long, we shall have a new Planning Act, in which local authorities will be invited to send to the Ministry a complete outline plan of the whole of their area, in which I hope crematoria will be included.

MR. G. A. NOBLE (Kent County Crematorium Ltd.) : As has already been mentioned, we are anxious that Mr. Marshall shall not miss his train, but, before he leaves this Conference, I think we should express our appreciation to him, and I would ask you in the usual manner to express your appreciation to Mr. Marshall for his paper this afternoon.

ALDERMAN A. STARK (Hull) : I should like to second the vote of thanks. The points Mr. Marshall dealt with are vital, and I am sure they have been appreciated by everyone here in this hall this afternoon.

MR. W. R. TATTERSALL : We are very fortunate to have here this afternoon Mr. J. L. Seaton Dahl, F.R.I.B.A., an extremely well-known architect, and I will now call upon him to address the Conference.

MR. J. L. SEATON DAHL, F.R.I.B.A. :

As representing the Royal Institute of British Architects at this Conference, I should first of all like to stress the importance of employing an architect to design such an important building as a crematorium. It will, in course of time, be seen by thousands of people, and it is necessary that they should carry away with them recollections of a building well proportioned and balanced. Such a building is well worthy of an architect's skill, and it is really unfair to a borough engineer or surveyor to ask him to design such an edifice, because he has not had the architect's training. Also, it would not be fair to the ratepayers.

Now, as regards the site, I do hope this will not be in an existing cemetery. If this, however, owing to local conditions, is inevitable, then the cemetery portion should be effectively screened off from view, by trees or bushes, and there should be a separate drive and entrance.

"However, it is to be, hoped that a new site will be possible. If so, it should not be less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent, to allow of ample space for the garden of rest and for future enlargement and developments. The site should be as accessible as possible to the public, and not too far away from transit services—buses or trains.

By statute there are limitations in that the building must not be within a certain distance of the road or adjacent dwellings. Gas and electricity and water should be available and a sewer is naturally an asset. A large car park placed within easy distance from the entrance of the building is, in these days, essential, with a wide drive and entrance gates, so that an in-coming and out-going cortège may pass without hindrance or confusion. I suggest, before a site is definitely fixed, that the architect should be consulted and the architect and the landscape gardener should get together at an early stage, so that the best ways of planning the site may be considered.

It must not for a moment be thought that a crematorium is merely a chapel and a furnace room. There are technical problems and numerous ancillary buildings required to properly equip a modern crematorium. One of the first points to be settled will be the fuel to be employed—gas, electricity (or, alternatively, oil), and this, to a certain extent, may be affected by whether the local authority owns either of these undertakings. The pros and cons of these alternative methods you will have heard elaborated yesterday afternoon.

The next problem will be the disposal of the coffin after committal. There may be said to be three methods :—

(*a*) Horizontal removal, when the coffins pass through folding doors, into the committal chamber. This is the usual way and has been most used in the past.

(*b*) By descent, when the coffin passes downwards through the catafalque and floor. This has been employed at Edinburgh and at Charing. It is somewhat expensive, as a hoist is required, and to some cremationists is too reminiscent of burial.

(*c*) By means of a curtain, electrically controlled, being drawn across the apse, shutting off the catafalque from view. This is cheap and efficient and is used at the modern crematorium at Oxford. There is, however, the feeling and knowledge that the coffin is still behind the curtain, and has not been so finally committed as in the previous two methods.

In designing a crematorium, orientation is not essential, although preferable, and in the design there should be no cross or christian symbols, as the users will be of any sect or religion.

The general accommodation to be provided is as follows :—

Entrance, with porte cochère, if desired, and vestibule.
A waiting room, with a view of the entrance at the west end.
A vestry, also at the west end, with a similar view.
A recovery room.
A chapel to seat, usually, about 50.
A committal chamber.
Furnace room.
A mortuary and chapel ardente.
Columbarium.
Cloisters.
Lavatories for ladies, for men, for clergy (who may share the latter) and for chauffeurs, undertakers' men and gardeners.

It is important that the waiting room should be sunny and cheerful and well furnished in a homely manner with, possibly, a writing desk and pictures on the walls.

A recovery room may not be essential, but on occasion mourners break down, and, in connection with this and the waiting room, a small sink with means of boiling a kettle for tea can be a great amenity.

The size of the chapel must be considered in connection with the population to be served. A large chapel is liable to be somewhat bleak with few mourners, but on the other hand, it may, when the deceased was a well-known local figure—such as a mayor or town clerk—prove much too small. A gallery often is of assistance in providing further accommodation, when required.

Some years ago I built a seamen's church where there was the same difficulty, because at Easter and Christmas, or when there were many ships in port, accommodation was insufficient. Double sliding and folding doors were constructed under the front of the gallery and the space under was thrown open to the church, when necessary. The chapel should be light and airy and, if windows or folding doors can overlook the garden of rest, the effect is excellent.

The committal room is placed between the chapel and the furnace room and there should be either access to it from the chapel or borrowed lights from some adjacent room or corridor, as at Oxford, since on occasion it is necessary for trustees to see the actual committal.

In early days the ashes were put in urns or caskets and either removed by the relatives, buried in the ground, or stored in the columbarium. This method is now almost abandoned, and the ashes scattered in the garden of rest. Hence the columbarium can be small, but capable of enlargement or duplication.

Memorials should be prohibited from defacing the walls of the chapel. The usual practice now is for small stone tablets of brick size, incised with the name and date, to be let into the walls of the cloisters, or be inscribed on " recordia", which are ornamental memorials, also placed on the walls of the cloisters. However, the most simple and most modern practice is now to have a " Book of Remembrance", a separate page for each day of the year (except Sundays and public

holidays, when no cremations occur). This book of handsome binding and good lettering is kept under glass and a page turned over daily, so that it may be seen by relatives in future years. The book is usually placed in the chapel, but I am not sure that this is the most suitable place, as it will not be available during services. Possibly some well-lighted alcove could be arranged, away from interference and reserved for the purpose. This method, I think, is to be recommended, and, it is to be hoped, will be popular. Cloisters covered with stone or marble memorials are quickly filled and require enlargement and development. A second chapel may be required.

A crematorium with which I am associated had one furnace to start with, a second was quickly added, and now two more are to be installed. Therefore, the furnace room should be large to allow for the future extension and the flue constructed of a size to accommodate four furnaces. This is about the maximum which one chapel can serve. Also space must be reserved for future cloisters.

There should be a small room available for the undertakers' men and chauffeurs to wait during the ceremony, although the service is not usually of more than half an hour's duration, with possibly tea facilities.

At the gates the superintendent's house is erected, with a small office and living quarters. The general offices may also be here, but more generally these are in the municipal offices or some central and easily accessible position to the public. Greenhouses and potting sheds will be necessary and are usually placed in some unobtrusive position.

On the Continent some notable crematoria have been erected, of arresting appearance, but it must be confessed that the general design in this country in the past is somewhat lamentable. So often the design has merely perpetuated the old cemetery style of chapel, which, in a modern building of this nature, is to be avoided. As there is no tradition to be followed, architects can have a free rein and they have a great opportunity to devise a style suitable to the occasion. It is said that the external appearance of a building should be to some extent an indication of its use, and I feel, therefore, that the elevations should endeavour to convey a religious appearance.

The question of materials is of importance. Local materials are generally preferable—in Kent one would employ brick ; in the Cotswolds, stone. The materials, however, should be the best obtainable of their kind, and of pleasing colour. Small multi-colour hand-made bricks, with wide joint look well and they are not used by local authorities on housing schemes, but only old stocks of these are available at present. At the present time the repair of war damage, housing, factories for export trade and the reinstatement of de-requisitioned hotels at the seaside are the main priorities. Probably hospitals and schools will follow and, let us hope, crematoria.

DISCUSSION

MR. W. R. TATTERSALL : Now ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Dahl has laid down quite a number of points with regard to the choosing of a site and building a crematorium and no doubt a number of you will have a lot of questions to fire at him.

COUNCILLOR W. H. HUMPHREYS (Sutton and Cheam) : Would it be practicable to arrange the funeral service in such a way that the actual memorial service could take place in a church and the commital service at the crematorium to be confined to near relatives of the deceased ?

MR. W. R. TATTERSALL : Frankly I would not like to see that practice introduced. I do feel that a crematorium is the place where every part of the service should be undertaken and from my own personal view I should not want to diverge from it.

A DELEGATE : Is it possible to have group services at a crematorium ?

MR. TATTERSALL : No. In a certain place in this country the members of the community have been rather antagonistic to cremation and, as a result, the number of cremations during a certain period decreased. That was attributed to the undue popularity given to Buchenwald.

ALDERMAN A. E. BERNAYS (Mortlake) : Mass services are horrible things which should be abolished.

MR. J. WARBURTON (Superintendent, Altrincham) : I suggest that the Superintendent be consulted before his house is built and that it should be opposite the crematorium and not inside the grounds.

MR. DAHL : There is no objection to building the house opposite the gates, if preferred. However, more land would be required if it were built on the opposite side of the road, but it should be near the gates so that the Superintendent can see the gates, but I should probably think that it would be more convenient on the same side of the road as the crematorium.

MR. G. A. NOBLE (Kent County Crematorium Ltd.) : With regard to Mr. Dahl's remarks that it is preferable not to have a cross or Christian symbols, is it not possible to provide some means by which there could be a cross crucifix or altar, which could easily be moved when cremating Jews, but which could be used for Christian Services ?

MR. DAHL : So long as they can be removed, there is nothing against having crosses, etc., and a Christian would like to have them.

MR. TATTERSALL : In the crematorium with which I am connected in Dundee most of the people are Presbyterian and many of them would object very strongly to the presence of an altar, a cross or a crucifix. On the other hand, many are Episcopalians and we get over the difficulty by providing an altar which can be removed, and that is, I think, a practical solution to the difficulty. I am now going to call on Mr. Edward White, V.M.H., P.P.I.L.A., who is one of the few very experienced landscape gardeners in this country, to give his contribution to the Conference.

MR. EDWARD WHITE, P.P.I.L.A., V.M.H :

The last time this Society discussed gardens, I believe, was at the Oxford Conference, eight years ago. The specified subject then was the *Ideal* Crematorium Garden. Not very easy to determine—taste in gardening is so various, and argument about it is so futile that it will be a long time before we all agree on what constitutes an ideal garden of any kind : particularly an ideal crematorium garden, which is in a class of its own. Every aspect of such a garden, artistic, horticultural, financial, psychological and practical, has to be related to the unique purpose for which the crematorium garden is intended.

The last of these issues, the practical, must always take first place. To begin with, it is highly practical to employ the best that garden art can offer towards perfecting a crematorium unit. As a landscape architect, I should claim that any obligation incurred by gardening was repaid in full measure. The cult of cremation is unlikely to find a more persuasive advocate than a *really* beautiful garden of remembrance. I emphasise *really* beautiful.

We are in the habit of talking about gardens as if all were naturally beautiful. But beautiful gardens are not come by easily. They have to be made, and before they can be made they have to be skilfully planned. Beauty in a garden means far more than a mere profusion of beautiful flowers.

When the first crematorium gardens were made in this country, garden art was at a low ebb. Cemeteries were at their worst, in spite, or perhaps because, of the enormously expensive monuments with which they were cluttered.

Compared with such burial grounds, the simple lawns made for the disposal of cremated ashes may have justified their description as " gardens of rest". Otherwise the earlier crematorium gardens were primitive and featureless.

Later, well-known pioneers of cremation were inspired by growing gardening enthusiasm to make really attractive gardens, incorporating individual memorial features. The love of gardening is, in fact, so ingrained in British people that nothing better could be devised as a symbol of remembrance. And so it has come about that well-planned memorial gardens are considered an indispensable adjunct to every crematorium.

It is said that plans for more than 200 new crematoria are in various stages of preparation and we may infer that all will be provided with specially planned gardens. What opportunities the construction of this large number of new gardens will present to enhance the fame of British gardening. This may appear to be a certainty from the wording of the prospectuses that will be issued in due course. It can be taken for granted that they will all stress the beauty of the proposed gardens of remembrance.

Presumably, the great majority of these new crematoria are municipal undertakings. In recent years, town authorities have been so liberal-minded in the improvement of parks and gardens under their control that one hopes they will place their crematorium gardens in the highest class of open spaces, rather than in the category of cemeteries, which are still too often the Cinderellas of public amenities.

No two gardens will be the same. They will have to be adjusted to different forms of architecture and to great variety according to the shape, size and circumstances of each site. Soil, climate and other conditions will need consideration.

Every new garden will present some special problem of its own, but certain principles of arrangement are common to all. One of the most important, in my opinion, is to distinguish as far as possible the memorial gardens from the layout of the ground immediately near the buildings. How this can be done depends partly on the nature and size of the site and perhaps more by agreement with the architect on the relation of his building to the general scheme.

This, of course, involves friendly collaboration from the outset. Regarding the site, I don't think I shall hurt the feelings of the Society if I refer to the unpopularity of a crematorium as a neighbour. It is not often that a site can be secured without controversy, and consequently one that is perfect in all aspects is difficult to find. It appears to me that the difficulty might sometimes be met if suitable ground big enough for the buildings alone were obtainable, while the memorial gardens, to which there is little or no objection, were placed elsewhere.

In the larger towns, two or more gardens in different quarters would be a convenience to the inhabitants. This detached method is adopted in the case of one of the smallest and best crematorium sites I know of, no more than three or four acres in extent. It is a copse of silver birch interspersed with some fine oak trees and Scots firs. Nothing more pleasing and suitable could be devised for framing and screening the buildings.

Memorial gardens will be shaped out of similar woodland on the other side of the road. Broad grass glades brightened with suitable flowering trees, shrubs and flowers will make possible an approach to my own ideal of gardens of rest.

The least satisfactory sites with which I have had to deal have been large treeless fields surrounded by scanty farm hedges. In the middle of the fields stark buildings were already erected before any plan of layout had been made beyond straight approach roads and big car parks. In

such exposed positions it must be years before the outlines of the buildings can be softened by foliage and it will always be difficult to lose sight of the buildings in any part of the grounds.

A central position of this kind reduces the extent of the gardens on every side and, therefore, prevents satisfactory breadth of treatment. Moreover, under such conditions, it is almost impossible for visitors to escape the sight of funerals—the last thing to be desired in a garden of rest.

The need for collaboration between architect and garden designer is understood by experienced persons in both professions. The architect is naturally concerned to have a garden setting that shows his buildings to full advantage, and to ensure this must be the first object of a garden plan.

Some of the new forms of crematorium architecture are so good that it is an artistic privilege to enhance the effect by garden arrangement. But nothing can hide the fact that the finest architecture will not persuade ordinary persons to regard with liking the exterior of a building within whose walls they have undergone a painful experience. It is undesirable, out of consideration for them, to place a building on an eminence or other situation that commands the whole layout of a memorial garden.

A peaceful atmosphere is one of the chief virtues of any garden: it is the *raison d'être* of a garden of rest. Restfulness comes not only from what one does, but from what you don't do—you cannot please everybody—but among the reasonable demands I would support the following:—

1. First and foremost, to disallow obtrusive inscriptions remindful of a cemetery or burial place. This, or course, would not prohibit unobtrusive memorials in private memorial gardens.
2. Many people regard with the utmost distaste the practice of dispersing cremated ashes visibly on grass areas in memorial gardens. Alternative means of disposal are not difficult to devise.
3. The provision of shelters and secluded seats is much desired, preferably not in sight of each other.
4. Water features, naturally introduced, have a restful effect. I personally prefer one sizeable pond to a number of features of the lily-pool type.
5. The bigger arrangement of water suggests preference for informality as against symmetrical design. In some cases, of course, formality may be desirable. This generally involves bedding (with bare earth for considerable periods) and expensive greenhouses.

Incidentally, new mechanical appliances make possible, at reasonable cost, landscape operations that were formerly prohibitive.

The beauty of every garden depends in the main on the wise selection of trees and shrubs, and their relation to each other in a landscape picture. There is such a wide choice now of beautiful material that the unpopularity of trees that are aptly described as "like a cemetery" planting is understandable. Pointed conifers are certainly not so restful as the rounded forms of deciduous trees.

I think there is no better foundation for the planting of a large garden than natural woodland material. For a crematorium garden a substantial enclosure belt of this kind, connected in all directions with large groups within the grounds is the cheapest way of providing a pleasant background for various garden features of a more ornamental nature.

The cost of maintenance is, to-day, one of the biggest headaches in garden design. In my experience, the cheapest gardens to maintain are those which are sufficiently beautiful to be a source of pride to a staff of intelligent and industrious workers. This implies that the superintendent should be a man of first-class ability, whom it is always worth while to pay well.

As my function to-day is merely to open the discussion on crematorium gardens, I will skim no more cream off the many matters involved, and shall listen with interest to any further ideas put forward; and to improvements upon my own suggestions.

DISCUSSION

COUNCILLOR E. KAVANAGH (Leeds): I am very interested in the last speaker's remarks and also in the previous ones with regard to siting, owing to the fact that both the speakers would imagine that we, as local authorities, have the whole of England to select from. The problem of land is getting very acute and you have to take, in many cases, the next best thing, and, whilst naturally beautiful surroundings are most desirable, I guarantee that there are very few authorities that are able to take advantage of them. We are also told in the same speech that we must also take into account ths accessibility of the site, that is, it must not be too far away from transport services—buses or trains, etc., and all the rest of it, from the point of view of the relatives.

ALDERMAN MRS. S. J. HAYWARD (Mayor of Newport, Mon.): In my opinion, when relatives go to the Garden of Rest it is more or less a pilgrimage and they feel that they would like to take flowers. Why should this be tabooed because the crematorium authorities object to a flower receptacle?

MR. WHITE: My suggestion was that we do not want dead flowers in a Garden of Rest.

THE MAYOR OF NEWPORT: The flowers need not stay there until after they are dead; they can be taken away as soon as the people go. You men are not a bit sentimental!

MR. TATTERSALL: This question that the Lady Mayor has raised is very important, and rather difficult, as there is a desire on the part of many people to do in a crema-

torium what they used to do in a cemetery, but we have to be pretty firm, and we certainly do not want jam jars about the place.

THE MAYOR OF NEWPORT: I did not say "jam jars": I said a "receptacle" should be provided.

COUNCILLOR R. E. H. MOULDER (Gloucester): Would it be possible to plant trees in memory of the deceased?

MR. WHITE: If these memory trees are planted, it is perfectly reasonable that the person for whom it is planted should have something recognisable, so that it showed a memory, but it would have to be very small and in such a way that people would think it was the name of the tree.

COUNCILLOR MRS. H. L. MUSGRAVE-HOYLE (Lancaster): I must say how very refreshing it is to hear an architect such as Mr. White put forward ideas of planning a garden and how absolutely necessary it is, with all due respect to any borough engineer, to have a really first class landscape gardener who has the whole thing in his mind.

ALD. J. CLARK (Derby): With regard to the planting of trees, you will find that someone wants to plant a poplar tree and next to that someone else will want to plant a very small tree.

THE MAYOR OF NEWPORT: If you have a receptacle for cut flowers, they can be dispensed with the next morning. The caretaker can take them away, as they will have served their purpose. I do hope that provision will be made for a flower receptacle.

MR. TATTERSALL: We should give every facility to the relatives of those people who have been cremated, and the Mayor of Newport feels that there is a very strong urge on the part of many people to deposit cut flowers in memory of those departed persons.

MR. H. ROYLE (Chairman, the Federation of British Cremation Authorities): I would suggest that the Mayor of Newport visits Mortlake tomorrow afternoon, where she will see troughs have been provided in the cloisters. It is part of the equipment and they are available for the reception of cut flowers.

MR. J. A. FOX (Superintendent, Cardiff): It is possible to have a crematorium which looks like a private house and conforms to the surrounding country.

MR. DAHL: I don't see how you are going to make it look like a domestic building with a tall chimney. In any case, a crematorium should not look like a domestic building, but what it is.

ALDERMAN W. LAWLEY (Mayor of Wolverhampton): I have been honoured by being asked to the platform to propose a vote of thanks to our two speakers and also to our Chairman, who has so admirably carried out his duties this afternoon. I am sure everyone of us extends to Mr. Dahl and Mr. White, our two speakers, their thanks for their most interesting and instructive papers.

COUNCILLOR G. J. BARAGWANATH (Birmingham): I have very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to our speakers and our Chairman this afternoon. There is just one thing I want to mention, and that is, do make arrangements to secure the services of a first-class architect. We in Birmingham, unfortunately, did not make arrangements for an architect, possibly on the question of cost, but I would say to all of you who are planning a crematorium, do make arrangement with an architect.

END OF SESSION

FIFTH SESSION

Saturday, July 20th, 1946, at 10·30 a.m.

SIR GEORGE ELLISTON, M.C. (Chairman of the Council of the Cremation Society) in the chair.

"MEMORIALS FOR CREMATED SERVICE DEAD IN THE UNITED KINGDOM"

SIR GEORGE ELLISTON, M.C.: I am very pleased to see so many survivors after a strenuous week and I am glad the attendance is so good, because we have a very interesting subject for discussion this morning. We are especially fortunate in having with us Lt.-Col. R. W. Murphy, who has a great responsibility in connection with the Imperial War Graves Commission. He has responsibility in connection with matters which come to all of us who are responsible for the administration of our cemeteries. Col. Murphy is going to tell us of the arrangements that have been made for the marking of the burial places of those servicemen, including our allies, that have been buried in this country, and also the special provision that has been made for those men who have been cremated.

LT.-COL. R. W. MURPHY, O.B.E. (Imperial War Graves Commission): The permanent care and marking of the war cemeteries of 1939-1945 has been entrusted, by the peoples and governments of the Commonwealth and Empire to the Imperial War Graves Commission, with an instruction to erect headstones and memorials similar to those which marked the cemeteries of 1914-1918.

Some of the monumental masons in this country have labour available to start on this work, and the initial contracts were placed in the early part of this year.

Many of you here to-day are in charge of cemeteries, as well as crematoria, and you are familiar with the standard type of headstone. You also know the central memorial, known as the Cross of Sacrifice, and, therefore, I have not brought copies of the designs to show you. The headstones on the 1914-1918 war graves can be found in more than 9,000 burial places in this country. Now you can see some of the new headstones on the 1939-1945 war graves.

Last Sunday, my Chief, General Sir Fabian Ware, had the honour of receiving His Majesty The King, at Great Bircham (St. Mary) Churchyard, where the new headstones have been erected and a Cross of Sacrifice constructed. This Churchyard is within the boundaries of the King's private estate.

The Service Plot, on the east side of this

Churchyard, was used for the burial of airmen from Bircham Newton Royal Air Force Station, of other dead whose bodies were washed up locally by the sea, and of German airmen brought down during the Battle of Britain. The Station at Bircham Newton was built in 1916. From the outbreak of war, in 1939, to the end of 1940, it was chiefly a fighter base ; from January, 1941, to late in 1944 it was a base for attacks on enemy surface vessels ; and in 1944 - 45 its duties were mainly Air-Sea Rescue and meteorological work.

The Plot has been enclosed with a yew hedge, and the Cross of Sacrifice is erected on the east side. The graves may be classified as :—

Royal Air Force (including one man unidentified)	36
Royal Canadian Air Force ..	17
Royal New Zealand Air Force ..	6
Royal Australian Air Force ..	4
Royal Artillery	1
Women's Auxiliary Air Force ..	1
South African Air Force.. ..	1
German Air Force	11

The British graves date from April, 1940, to March, 1945 ; the German from December, 1939, to August, 1941.

I mention these details so that you can understand why this burial place was included on our first priority list for the new constructional work.

The ceremony, which took place on Sunday, was a Service of Dedication, conducted by the Rector, with the assistance of a Royal Air Force Chaplain. The Cross of Sacrifice was unveiled by the King and a wreath was placed on the memorial by the Queen. No doubt some of you saw reports of the ceremony in the newspapers of the 15th July.

The Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland and India have decided, as after the 1914-1918 war, that the return of bodies of members of His Majesty's Forces, buried overseas, to their homelands shall not be undertaken nor allowed. To give full effect to this decision, it is also necessary for the Commission to see that cremated remains are not sent home to the Dominions, as this would be a departure from the agreed policy of equality of treatment.

It is, therefore, right that you should know the decisions of the Commission in regard to cremations which have taken place in the United Kingdom.

The first decision was :—

" That the controlling authorities of crematoria in the United Kingdom be invited to agree to the permanent commemoration of the Service war dead there cremated (except those whose ashes have been buried in a regular burial ground) by means of a panel or panels fixed at a suitable place at the columbarium or in the grounds, the list of names to include all such dead, irrespective of private comemoration ; and "

secondly :—

" That the Commission's printed register should record under the names of each crematorium the names of the officers and men there commemorated."

All of this is known to your General Secretary, and the subject is one to which he has given a good deal of thought in the past two years.

You may well ask what action was taken by the Commission to commemorate the names of Service personnel cremated in the United Kingdom during the war years of 1914-1918. The task was a small one, because, at that time, there were very few crematoria and the practice of cremation was not so general as it is to-day. This is clearly illustrated by the figures. At the 12 crematoria of 1914-1918 there were 104 cremations of Service personnel.

In addition, certain units of the Indian Army cremated their dead at an installation of their own, on the Downs at Patcham, near Brighton. Beneath the " Chattri " are the ashes of 35 Hindu and Sikh soldiers.

This blue print shows to full scale the lettering on the panel in the columbarium at Woking Crematorium.

The Service cremations of the war years of 1939-1945 are recorded as 2,312, and I think you will be interested to know the figures for each crematorium.

Cambridge	27	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	79
Birkenhead	26	Nottingham	43
Stockport	33	Oxford..	33
Plymouth	60	Reading	23
Weymouth	13	Stoke-on-Trent ..	20
Darlington	21	Ipswich	30
City of London ..	41	Croydon	38
Bristol (Arnos Vale) ..	57	Mortlake	48
Cheltenham	27	Mitcham	79
Bournemouth	23	Woking	80
Southampton	49	Brighton (Borough) ..	45
Charing	34	Brighton (Downs) ..	10
Blackpool	30	Birmingham	29
Liverpool	34	Birmingham (Perry Barr)	56
Manchester	171	Coventry	10
Rochdale	33	Bradford	27
Leicester	20	Harrogate	8
Camberwell	47	Hull	38
Golders Green ..	297	Leeds (Lawns Wood)	54
Kensal Green ..	2	Leeds (Cottingley Hall)	5
Wandsworth	29	Sheffield	18
West Norwood ..	15	Pontypridd	55
Enfield	32	Aberdeen	50
Hendon Park	11	Dundee	49
St. Marylebone ..	15	Edinburgh	88
Islington	2	Edinburgh (Leith) ..	54
Norwich and Norfolk	23	Glasgow	48
Kettering	4	Paisley..	11
Northampton	8		

As far as we know, the only exception for the United Kingdom is the crematorium at Guernsey, in the Channel Islands, where no

Serviceman was cremated during the war years. But, as you know, during the period of the German occupation this crematorium was not in use, as the authorities were not permitted to have a supply of fuel.

The Commission's Principal Architect for the United Kingdom is Mr. Edward Maufe, A.R.A., and I am now able to place before you a scheme which he has prepared for commemorating names at the Mortlake Crematorium. He, or the Assistant Architect, Major Hobday, will, in due course, visit all the crematoria to prepare schemes, which will be submitted to you for your formal approval. But I cannot say at this stage when the work will be undertaken.

There is one very important point, in that the official termination of the war has not yet been announced, and all those at present serving in the Navy, the Army and the Air Force, who may have the misfortune to lose their lives before the date of the official announcement, will be entitled to be classified and treated as war graves. Therefore, until the date is announced, the final list cannot be prepared for any crematorium.

In conclusion, I would mention that quite recently the Commission have received requests from relatives for cremated remains of airmen to be interred in the Royal Air Force Regional Cemeteries at Brookwood and Cambridge. The Commission have readily given their consent to these requests, and the spaces in which the ashes have been buried are to be treated as normal graves. The temporary wooden crosses have been put up and, eventually, these will be replaced by our standard-pattern headstones. This subsequent burial of ashes can only take place in isolated instances, as, generally speaking, it has been the practice to have the ashes scattered in the Gardens of Remembrance.

DISCUSSION

MR. W. T. CRESWELL, K.C.: I made sure of being present this morning, and I have been exceedingly pleased to hear Col. Murphy's speech. Now I think I ought to give you the reason, and Col. Murphy will see what is in my mind. In 1916, my son, an officer in the R.F.C., was killed in France. At the time, I was serving in the Regular Army, in Egypt, and it was not until 1926 that I was able to get over to France. My wife and I knew where he was brought down, and we went searching the cemeteries there, and we were almost giving up hope when I came across a stone, in a small cemetery, to an unknown officer of the Oxford and Bucks. Light Infantry. I said: "That is my son's grave." It took me 10 years to satisfy the War Graves Commission that that was my son's grave, and now there is a cross with his name upon it in that small cemetery. I would like to feel that, although the circumstances in this last war are not quite the same as in the 1914-18 war, everyone, either father or mother, would be in the same position as I was, in 1926, to go and discover and come across the records, in the way that I did. I am much obliged for what I have heard from Col. Murphy, and I was very much indebted to the assistance of the War Graves Commission, but my point is, can others be in the same position, in the years to come, as I was in 1926. At that time there was no suggestion of any cremation at all.

COUNCILLOR E. KAVANAGH (Leeds): The temporary crosses which are on these graves are now indecipherable in many places, owing to weather. Is it possible for the War Graves Commission to undertake re-painting or doing-up until such times as the solid stones are placed?

LT.-COL. MURPHY: In answer to Mr. Creswell, I know that there are many of us, and I can see some here to-day, who have suffered personal loss, and I would like to give you this assurance, that, as far as R.A.F. is concerned, the Air Ministry have compiled records of all the machines that have failed to return, and they have sent organised parties to the Continent, and they are now going systematically through every city, town, village and hamlet, in making their enquiries, and their work is being done in such a way that they will cover the whole country, and, I hope, succeed in tracing, identifying and marking the graves of so many of those brave airmen who disappeared for many months and were just reported missing, believed killed. Any information which relatives may have subsequently received will be sent along to the Record Office and will be carefully surveyed; and once the grave is established as being identified, it will then be the responsibility of the War Graves Commission to see that it is properly marked and permanently maintained, and I am very glad to give that assurance.

With regard to the question from the delegate from Leeds: We are in difficulty over wooden crosses. Timber was so scarce that we had to arrange for timber to be used which was not seasoned, neither could we have the quality we were accustomed to have, and we have had to use a war-time substitute. At the moment, with such a demand for timber for new houses, our supplies are quite small, and we are hoping to make headstones, so that replacing of wooden crosses will not be necessary, but it will obviously take some years to replace.

MR. NOBLE: Are the quarterly returns still to be continued, because we are not receiving the forms?

MR. P. H. JONES: About three months ago I wrote to the A.G. department concerned and asked it they wished to continue to receive these. I got no reply, so I persisted and eventually I received one of those official postcards, saying that the matter is receiving attention, and I presume that it is still receiving attention.

LT.-COL. MURPHY: Send the returns to me.

COUNCILLOR W. J. PERKINS (Margate): I would like to ask if, when erecting the headstones, serious consideration can be given to their being placed back to back. And, also, when erecting headstones instead of crosses, can a reduction of the length of the ground be considered, on which the headstone will be erected?

LT.-COL. MURPHY: I am very glad to know the wishes of the Councillor, in the matter of headstones. If it is the wish for the headstones to be placed back to back, it can certainly be done. You will find that the new design is considerably smaller than those used on the 1914-1918 graves.

MR. H. G. GARRETT (Superintendent, Brighton): What are the findings of the War Graves Commission when deaths occur in the meantime before the official date of termination of the war? Those discharged soldiers who died, as a result of injuries received during the war, should also be included between now and the official cessation of hostilities.

LT.-COL. MURPHY : By way of answering Mr. Garrett, I should explain that, after the 1914-1918 war, the date of official termination was eventually fixed as the 31st August, 1921. You must remember that there are men who have been serving in many parts of the world, and a lot of them are not yet home. If, shortly after their return, they meet with a fatal accident or die in hospital, it would be inhuman not to accept them as war graves, and this will continue to be done until the final date of cessation of hostilities is fixed.

SIR GEORGE ELLISTON : The next item on our Agenda is Mr. P. Herbert Jones, on "Education for Cremation." This is a very important subject, which concerns every one of us who is responsible for encouraging the Cremation Movement, and I hope this morning that, from the great experience of Mr. Jones, we shall get some valuable information, and I will now call on Mr. Jones to give his paper at once.

"EDUCATION FOR CREMATION"

MR. P. HERBERT JONES (General Secretary, the Cremation Society ; Secretary, the Federation of British Cremation Authorities) : Having in mind the principle of allowing as much time as possible for discussion, I do not propose to give a formal paper this morning, but, instead, with your consent, I will deliver myself of a few aphorisms on the subject under review, in the hope that my observations will provoke discussion and that we may all learn something, in consequence.

First, I would refer to the observations of Lord Horder in the course of his Presidential Address, at the opening session of this Conference, when he said : " Since it is hoped that the public will avail themselves of the services you have supplied, you must ensure that they are made aware of these services by taking every opportunity of publicity that is offered. There are many people who are daily learning of the advantages of cremation for the first time, and there are many who may still be waiting to learn."

If you were in my position, and had to sit in the office of the Cremation Society, receiving letters from all and sundry, you would be amazed at the lack of knowledge that still exists in the mind of the public on this subject, and, also, at what is tantamount to a yearning for this knowledge. This prompted me to suggest that, at this Conference, we should give ample time for you to consider how best we can satisfy this yearning. You may very well ask what we have done about it. My answer would be that, although we have not done all that, perhaps, we might have done, we have certainly tried to do all we could. During this Conference we have been told almost *ad nauseam* that the Cremation Society was founded in 1874, and I imagine that your grandchildren, in their history examinations, will cite 1874 as one of the most important dates of history, whilst 1066 will be relegated to the limbo of the forgotten.

You may be prompted to ask why it is that, after 70 years, people are still lacking information. My answer would be that the Elementary Education Act was passed in 1870, yet, judging by letters I receive at the office, only 25 per cent. of the population are able to read and write. Cremation education has, therefore, proceeded at a pace commensurate with the development of the general education of the community. But we have not had the assistance of the State behind us, and it is only in recent years that we have had the assistance of local authorities. For many years this work had to be performed by well-intentioned zealots, so that, for practical purposes, the education I am speaking of cannot be dated from 1874, but from a far more recent date.

During these years, cremation thought has developed and the various aspects of the subject have assumed an individual importance. This development has been observed, and, as the public need for enlightenment on each aspect has grown, the Society has produced literature to meet that need. By this means, there has been built up a set of publications, dealing with most of the questions people tend to ask. Just before the war, we collected all these questions, rendered them down, and answered them in one booklet, called "Why Cremation," which has had a very wide distribution and is to-day being distributed in ever-increasing numbers. This booklet, as well as other literature published by the Society, has also been supplied in bulk to cremation authorities, for local distribution. In addition, the Society has linked itself with the Health Week Movement, and, whenever the opportunity has arisen, has exhibited at health exhibitions, and has organised lectures and public meetings, with or without films, in all parts of the country. An important feature of our educational work has been press publicity, more especially during the past decade, when, through the medium of the Pharos Press, news " stories " have been circulated in the national and provincial newspapers. By this means, as well as by advertisements, cremation has been constantly kept before the reading public. Neither has Parliament been neglected, for friendly Members of Parliament have been briefed, as occasion arose, to ask the sort of questions which keep the subject " alive " and obtain mention in the political columns of the press. In short, every conceivable means has been adopted—and the process continues—to bring the advantages of cremation to the notice of the public.

But there are other aspects of our work, by no means unimportant. I refer to the Society's

practical encouragement of the establishment and good administration of crematoria. It has to be remembered that cremation began with the Society and that it was the Society which established the pioneer crematorium at Woking; was largely responsible for the establishment of the Golders Green Crematorium; and has since encouraged and supported similar projects in various parts of the country. The present Cremation Act and the Regulations drawn up under that Act—inadequate and out-of-date now—owed much to the Society in their origin; in 1924, the Society was instrumental in forming the Federation of British Cremation Authorities, which it has strongly supported ever since, and at all times its services and advice have been at the disposal of all cremation authorities.

Having regard to its efforts over these years, the Society may justifiably claim some share of the credit for the progress which we have been pleased to record. At least, it may reasonably ask whether so great a progress could have been possible without these efforts.

But what of the future? We are all agreed, apparently, that progress must be accelerated and that our educational work must be intensified if, as Mr. Bevan has said, we are to prevent this Island degenerating into a collection of asphalt and burial grounds. What, therefore, can we do? I will offer a few suggestions for your consideration.

1. We must recognise that each person who visits a crematorium is a potential missionary. The crematorium must, therefore, be attractive and its garden appealing to the senses.
2. The services offered at the crematorium should be polite and willing, so that whoever may go, for whatever purpose, may feel not a stranger who has arrived at the wrong moment, but a welcome guest who has been awaited.
3. There should be a good explanatory booklet, stating the procedure in simple language. In this booklet, the official "thou shalt not" should be studiously avoided. Realise that, in a world bounded by restrictions on all sides, it is the thing he may do which appeals to the individual. Tell him this, and he will imagine the rest. I would urge you to make this booklet attractive; print it well—good print is cheaper than bad—and illustrate it with well-chosen views of the crematorium and gardens.
4. Make use of the Society's services. A number of our general booklets and leaflets are so arranged that, at negligible cost, a cremation authority's own blocks and overprinting can be added. In addition, we have literature stocks from which we shall be willing to supply you sufficient for all your requirements. The more you ask for, the better we shall be pleased.
5. Arrange talks to groups and other meetings. Here let me say that I cannot, by reason of my experience, accept the view that it is impossible to hold meetings on this subject. I have addressed more public meetings on cremation than I like to recall, and I have a clear recollection of a public meeting addressed by Lord Horder at Douglas, shortly before the war, when, with the Lieutenant-Governor in the Chair and the Bishop on the platform, he spoke to an audience of 2,000 people. The subject was "Cremation." But I urge you not to overlook the value of the small group meeting. Every town has its groups, of men, of women, and of younger people; all potential raw material for your purpose. Many will welcome a discussion on this subject and most will accept literature for distribution. If you want someone to address meetings and groups, the Society will be pleased to help you.
6. Then there is the local press. I recommend you to make full use of it, by well-worded advertisements, which will encourage the editor to take your news items. Cremation can be made "news," like any other subject, and my experience is that the local press is always willing to be helpful.
7. I think it a mistake to regard the funeral director as hostile. I should be prepared to make a rough threefold division of funeral directors. There is the type who is definitely in favour of cremation. He is a business man, alive to the fact that cremation is progressing, and that, one day, it will be a highly important factor in his work. Then there is the type that is neutral. He requires encouragement to appreciate that times have changed and that it is worth his while to come right over. There is also the funeral director who is opposed to cremation. He has his reasons, or imagines he has. He needs educating. But all of them are business men, and most of them will listen to a reasoned argument. They play an important part and often decide the mode of disposal. I suggest they be taken into your confidence at the outset, and that their co-operation be invited. Most of them will take literature and display it in their shops and offices, and you may ultimately find, as others have done, that they are good propagandists.
8. Let me suggest that you keep in mind that cremation is essentially a public service, and that only the highest possible standards are good enough; the highest standards of equipment of your crematorium and of its services. The best propaganda for cremation is a good crematorium, carrying out its services willingly, and giving to every visitor a good impression.

Finally, permit me to suggest that you play your part in the Movement by putting your shoulder to the wheel. We are hoping to make a big effort shortly, to modernise the Law and remove the present-day restraints. To succeed

in this task, we need the united help of all concerned. To those of you who represent potential cremation authorities I would like to suggest that you recognise what has already been done for you, and that you show your appreciation by offering your contribution to the work of the future. You can do this best by joining the Federation as associate members, and so coming right inside the Movement, bringing to it your ideas and your energies, and making it truly representative of all that is best of public and social service.

My purpose was to stimulate discussion. I shall welcome your questions and your suggestions.

DISCUSSION

ALDERMAN A. E. BERNAYS (Mortlake): About 1905, I received two circulars from the Cremation Society, asking me to send one copy to a friend. The next time I saw my friend, some time afterwards, he said: "I got your pamphlet," but, by this time, I had forgotten about it. He said that it had arrived on his wedding morning. Well, now the difficulty is, I believe, to broach the subject of cremation. Most people say: "I don't care what happens to my body when it dies," and then the conversation dies.

MR. W. R. TATTERSALL (Dundee): Mr. Jones said that the best education for cremation was a well-kept and well-run crematorium. That I cannot stress too much, and I will tell you a story which is true, though it sounds fantastic. A young airman was brought down in the South of England, and was killed. His body was buried near the place where the accident occurred. His mother was very much bereaved, and, shortly afterwards, went on holiday to the North of Scotland. She had no special connection there, though she had some close friends or relations living there. She was taken to see a crematorium close by, and was so impressed by it and the beautiful gardens, that she had the body of her son removed from his burial place and cremated. This story just shows what an extraordinary effect a well-run and well-designed and well-kept gardens and crematoria can have on some people.

MRS. B. M. GILBERT: There are two points that I wanted to make:—

1. I would like to emphasise what has already been said about the education value of a good crematorium.
2. I consider that all town halls should have information on cremation. We all have to go to a town hall and queue for something or another, and I think it would be a good idea to have literature there for people to read while they are queueing. Cremation, if it is going to really take the place of earth burials, should be known about by the mothers, and I think it would be a good idea if local authorities saw that health visitors, etc., who visited the houses of the ordinary people and who were looked upon with respect by these people, were in a position to discuss it with these mothers, as a matter of national interest.

SIR GEORGE ELLISTON: I should like to support what Mrs. Gilbert has said about securing the help of the people who are in touch with the mothers. With regard to what Mr. Jones said, the Cremation Society should be recognised as the educational service of the whole Cremation Movement. It is very desirable that those of us who are in charge of crematoria, in our respective areas, should work in close contact with the Society and that we should make use of the material they have prepared.

COUNCILLOR S. J. STANLEY (Ipswich): I think the difficulty is that there are too many old men on councils. I am wondering whether some of those old people cannot make room on the councils for younger people.

COUNCILLOR E. KAVANAGH (Leeds): I am very surprised at the sentiments of the last speaker. I am thirty-seven, but, quite frankly, I have found more old men amongst young men of my age than I have found among younger people. So far as cremation is concerned, I find more support amongst people who are getting on in years than I do among young people, the reason being that young people think they are a long way from the point where they can be interested in the disposal of their bodies. People advancing in years tend to consider seriously the disposal of their body after death, and these are the people, in many cases, who are the supporters of cremation. I find, in the City of Leeds, that the gap between myself and the next younger men may be 15 to 20 years, but I want to say, quite definitely, that they are all very much in favour of cremation. So far as advertising is concerned, we cannot advertise too much the advantages of cremation, from the point of view both of the nation as a whole, and of the individual.

COUNCILLOR WILKINSON (Chesterfield): This is my first experience of the Cremation Society, but I shall leave here an ardent supporter of cremation. I come from a borough of which I do not know if it has been included in the 200 prospective crematorium authorities. If not, we shall make 201.

ALDERMAN T. C. KERRIGAN (Cardiff): It was not my intention to speak at all to-day, but this is the first time I have been able to attend a conference of this character. I want to be quite frank—I am a Roman Catholic. It is the intention of Cardiff to build a crematorium and we have the plans ready; and I have been sent here, as a delegate, to see and hear all that I can about what has been done, what is likely to be done, and what can be done. At first, I was not particularly impressed with the idea, and probably I did raise a lot of objections. However, I have been definitely very impressed by this Conference. As a matter of fact, I can say I have been converted and I promise to do all I can to push cremation forward for all I am worth.

VOTES OF THANKS

SIR GEORGE ELLISTON: This brings us to the end of what I am sure you will agree has been a most successful Conference. I should like to call upon our friend Alderman Bernays to move a Resolution.

ALDERMAN A. E. BERNAYS (Mortlake): As you heard from your Chairman, this speech of mine is not my fault. We speak of an old fogey, but what was he before? Possibly a young fogey. The motion which I have the honour of putting to the Conference is that a hearty vote of thanks be given to Lord Horder for his Presidential Address; and to the various Chairmen and Speakers at the Conference. I would just like to say how tactful it was of Lord Horder to choose to be known as "Lord Horder of Ash-ford," when he received his Peerage.

COUNCILLOR THE REV. J. F. S. JONES (Grimsby): I feel very honoured to second this vote of thanks, and particularly honoured to be asked to follow after one of the brightest speakers of this Conference. Within three-quarters of an hour I shall be on my way to the largest fishing port in the world—Grimsby, not Hull—and, within a few hours this Conference will be dispersed. This Conference has

given us all we wanted, and I am sure we are all very grateful indeed to our President, our very capable Chairmen, and to our very excellent speakers. I have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks.

MR. ROYLE: I would just like to associate myself with the observations of the proposer and seconder, and I would also like to express my thanks to Mr. Jones and Mr. Barry, and the staff of the Cremation Society, who made the excellent arrangements that we have had for this Conference. I think, also, we ought to express our thanks to the Cremation Society for being our hosts at the very excellent dinner, with its excellent speeches, on the first day of the Conference.

SIR GEORGE ELLISTON: We should like to hear a few words from Mr. Barry, the Conference Secretary, to whom we owe all the excellent arrangements.

MR. J. A. BARRY (Conference Secretary): It is very good of Mr. Royle to pay such a tribute to Mr. Jones and myself, particularly as it will enable me to pass it on to the other members of the staff who have done rather more work than we have. We have been running about looking important, and they have done the work. Thank you very much.

END OF SESSION

VISIT TO MORTLAKE CREMATORIUM

At the invitation of the Mortlake Crematorium Board, the delegates visited the Mortlake Crematorium on Saturday afternoon, 20th July. The party proceeded by coaches from the Conference Headquarters to the entrance of the Crematorium where they were received by the Chairman, Alderman H. T. Mercer of Acton.

Proceeding to the Chapel, accompanied by the Mayors of the constituent Boroughs of Acton, Barnes, Brentford and Chiswick, Hammersmith and Richmond, the delegates were given an outline of the constitution and progress of the Joint Board by the Chairman, following the opening remarks of the Mayor of Hammersmith. Alderman A. E. Bernays of Richmond also having spoken, the delegates proceeded to inspect the Crematorium under the guidance of members and officers of the Board.

The inspection completed, the delegates were then taken to the Terrace Gardens, Richmond, where they were received by the Mayor and Mayoress of Richmond, and, as the guests of the Mortlake Crematorium Board, partook of tea on the lawns. Fortunately, the afternoon was fine and the delegates were therefore able to enjoy the beauties of this delightful riverside spot, in addition to the hospitality provided. Sir George Elliston voiced the thanks and appreciation of the delegates and Alderman Mercer responded.

LIST OF DELEGATES APPOINTED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

The list is compiled from the forms returned by the Delegates

ABERTILLERY CORPORATION.
Councillor C. H. MORGAN.
ACCRINGTON CORPORATION.
Alderman R. I. CONSTANTINE, Chairman Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. T. D. BOYD, Parks Superintendent.
Mr. H. SANDERSON, Borough Engineer.
ALTRINCHAM CORPORATION.
Councillor A. VESEY, J.P.
Mr. J. WARBURTON, Registrar.
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE CORPORATION.
Councillor R. HANNAN, Chairman Recreation Grounds and Cemetery Committee.
Mr. H. BURSLAM, Deputy Borough Surveyor.
AYLESBURY CORPORATION.
Councillor F. B. HOWARD.
BEDFORD BURIAL BOARD.
Mr. A. E. PARROTT, Chairman.
BERMONDSEY CORPORATION.
Councillor E. J. GIBSON, Chairman Public Health Committee.
Mr. J. G. FRANKSON, Senior Inspector.
BIRMINGHAM CORPORATION.
Councillor G. J. BARAGWANATH, Chairman Parks Committee.
Mr. E. S. WHITE, General Manager, Parks Department.
Mr. G. E. E. ROSS, Committee Clerk.
Mr. W. A. E. TONGUE, Registrar.
BLACKPOOL CORPORATION.
Mr. A. BLACKBURN, Cemetery Registrar.
BOLTON CORPORATION.
Alderman A. BOOTH, J.P.
Mr. T. E. CLARK, Superintendent.
BRADFORD CORPORATION.
Councillor A. WINTERBURN.
Mr. T. E. GARBUTT, Superintendent.
BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK CORPORATION.
Councillor C. W. E. HICKS, Vice-Chairman, Burial Acts Committee.
BRIGHTON CORPORATION.
Mr. H. G. GARRETT, Superintendent and Registrar.
BRISTOL CORPORATION.
Alderman E. T. COZENS, Chairman Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. H. W. BEECHEY, M.B.E., Chief Superintendent.
BRISTOL GENERAL CEMETERY COMPANY.
Mr. V. H. P. DRAKE, Registrar.
BROMLEY CORPORATION.
Councillor F. L. HARRIS, Chairman Health Committee.
CAMBERWELL CORPORATION.
Alderman J. W. F. LUCAS.
Mr. J. R. FLACK, Superintendent and Registrar.
CARDIFF CORPORATION.
Alderman T. J. KERRIGAN.
Mr. J. A. FOX, Superintendent and Registrar.
CHELTENHAM CORPORATION.
Councillor Rev. E. S. DE COURCY IRELAND.
CHESTER CORPORATION.
Alderman W. M. JONES.
Mr. C. GREENWOOD, City Engineer.
CHESTERFIELD CORPORATION.
Councillor MELLOR, Vice-Chairman.
Mr. H. EDSON, Superintendent.
Councillor WILKINSON.
CLACTON-ON-SEA CORPORATION.
Councillor The Rev. H. G. REDGRAVE, M.A., Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee.
COVENTRY CORPORATION.
Councillor H. H. K. WINSLOW, Chairman Parks and Cemetery Committee.
Mr. P. W. H. CONN, General Superintendent.
Mr. A. G. WILLIS, Deputy Registrar.
CROYDON CORPORATION.
Councillor G. H. WARD, O.B.E., Chairman Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. L. J. EVANS, Superintendent.
CREMATION SOCIETY.
The Rt. Hon. LORD HORDER, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P. (*President*).
SIR STANLEY MARCHANT, C.V.O., D.MUS. (*Vice-President*).
MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.
SIR GEORGE ELLISTON, M.C., M.A., J.P.
Mrs. B. M. GILBERT.
Mr. G. LE B. DIAMOND, M.I.Mech.E., M.Inst.Gas.E.
Mr. H. SYKES.
SIR JOHN CAMERON, Bart., LL.B.
Mr. G. A. NOBLE, F.C.I.S.
Mr. H. ROYLE.
Major J. B. MORGAN-SMITH, D.S.O.
Mr. P. RITCHIE CALDER, O.B.E.
DAGENHAM CORPORATION.
Councillor Mrs. THOMAS, Mayoress.
Mr. A. E. STRICKLAND, Borough Surveyor.
DARLINGTON CREMATION SOCIETY LIMITED.
Mr. J. E. HODGKIN, J.P., F.S.A., *Chairman*.
Mr. J. T. WHITFIELD, Secretary and Manager.
DEPTFORD CORPORATION.
Mr. C. L. HILTON, Superintendent and Registrar.

DERBY CORPORATION.
Alderman J. CLARK, Chairman Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. G. D. VERDON, Registrar and Superintendent.

DONCASTER CORPORATION.
Councillor S. H. AUCKLAND, Member Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Councillor W. H. BRIDGEWATER, Member Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. W. THRUSTLE, Superintendent.

DUNDEE CREMATORIUM LIMITED.
Mr. W. R. TATTERSALL, Chairman of the Board.

EALING CORPORATION.
Councillor D. W. JONES, Chairman Works and Highways Committee.

EASTBOURNE CORPORATION.
Mr. R. HALL, M.C., Superintendent and Registrar.

EDINBURGH CREMATORIUM LIMITED.
Mr. G. DOUGLAS GIFFORD, B.L., Secretary.

EGHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Councillor A. W. MUMMERY.

FELTHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Mr. J. S. SYRETT, Clerk of the Council.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH CREMATION AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE).
Mr. H. ROYLE.
Mr. W. R. TATTERSALL.
Mr. E. S. WHITE.
Mr. A. BLACKBURN.
Mr. L. J. EVANS.
Mr. W. R. PEARSON.
Councillor SIR H. MIDDLEBROOK, Bart.
Mr. G. A. NOBLE, F.C.I.S.
Councillor A. E. MUNN, J.P.
Alderman A. E. BERNAYS.
Mr. P. H. JONES, M.C., B.A.
Alderman A. J. MAKER.
Alderman A. STARK.

GILLINGHAM CORPORATION.
Mr. W. H. DOBSON, M.I.M. & Cy. E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

GLOUCESTER CORPORATION.
Councillor R. E. H. MOULDER.
Mr. K. DOBBS, Assistant Cemeteries Superintendent.

GOSPORT CORPORATION.
Councillor A. J. OVENS, Chairman Open Spaces and Cemetery Committee.
Mr. W. HUDSON, Parks Superintendent.

GREENWICH CORPORATION.
Councillor G. F. WESTMACOTT, Chairman Adoptive Acts Committee.

GRIMSBY CORPORATION.
Councillor Rev. J. F. S. JONES, Vice-Chairman Cemetery Committee.
Mr. A. L. BRADLEY, Superintendent.

HACKNEY CORPORATION.
Mr. G. L. A. DOWNING, A.M.I.C.E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

HARROGATE CORPORATION.
Councillor SIR HAROLD MIDDLEBROOK, Bart., Chairman Health Committee.

HARROW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Councillor C. BROWN.

HEADINGLEY-CUM-BURLEY BURIAL BOARD.
Mr. H. BISSINGTON, Chairman.
Mr. C. E. ENGLISH.
Mr. W. R. PEARSON, Clerk.

HOVE CORPORATION.
Councillor C. A. CLARKE.

HUDDERSFIELD CORPORATION.
Alderman A. GARDINER, J.P., Chairman Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. J. H. IRONS, General Superintendent.

ILFORD CORPORATION.
Mr. A. N. HOOLE, Superintendent.

IPSWICH CORPORATION.
Councillor S. J. STANLEY.
Mr. F. B. J. GROOM, Clerk and Superintendent.

ISLINGTON CORPORATION.
Mr. A. E. KING, Superintendent.

KENSAL GREEN CREMATORIUM (GENERAL CEMETERY COMPANY).
Mr. H. ANDERSON, Secretary.

KENT COUNTY CREMATORIUM LIMITED.
Mr. G. A. NOBLE, F.C.I.S., Managing Director.
Dr. C. PYE OLIVER, Medical Referee.

KETTERING CORPORATION.
Councillor A. E. MUNN, J.P., Mayor.

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL CORPORATION.
Alderman A. STARK.
Councillor KNEESHAW.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES CORPORATION.
Alderman C. D. WELLS, Chairman, Public Health Committee.
Alderman W. E. ST. L. FINNY, M.D., M.Ch., F.S.A., J.P.

LAMBETH CORPORATION.
Mr. G. H. BUCKETT, Borough Engineer.

LANCASTER CORPORATION.
Councillor Mrs. H. L. MUSGRAVE-HOYLE, Chairman, Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Councillor A. P. DERRICK, J.P.
Councillor G. CHIRNSIDE.

LEEDS CORPORATION.
Councillor E. KAVANAGH, Chairman, Parks and Cemetery Committee.
Mr. J. MORRIS, Superintendent Registrar.

LEICESTER CORPORATION.
Councillor C. J. IRELAND.
Mr. E. H. MARSH, Superintendent.

LEWISHAM CORPORATION.
Councillor THURLEY, Chairman, Baths and Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. H. T. WYKES, Principal Architect.

LIVERPOOL CORPORATION.
Councillor A. B. HOER, Deputy Chairman, Cemeteries Sub-Committee.
Councillor J. VILLAGE, Chairman, Parks and Gardens Committee.
Alderman P. KAVANAGH, Deputy Chairman, Parks and Gardens Committee.
Councillor J. L. HUGHES.
Councillor R. E. SEARLE.
Mr. L. H. KEAY, City Architect and Director of Housing.
Mr. O. HORTON, Chief Superintendent, Parks and Gardens.

LONDON (CITY) CORPORATION.
Dr. C. F. WHITE, O.B.E., M.O.H.
Mr. F. J. FORTY, B.Sc., City Engineer.
Mr. F. G. HERBERT, Superintendent.

LUTON CORPORATION.
Councillor W. J. EDWARDS, Chairman, Parks and Entertainments Committee.
Mr. R. J. ENGLISH, F.Inst.P.A., Director of Parks.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION.
Councillor Mrs. TYLECOTE.
Councillor H. FRANKLAND.
Councillor W. FROST.
Mr. J. RICHARDSON, Director of Parks and Cemeteries.
Mr. L. C. HOWITT, City Architect.

MANCHESTER CREMATORIUM LIMITED.
Mr. F. C. PIGGOTT, Manager.

MANSFIELD CORPORATION.
Alderman BAGGALEY, Chairman, Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. E. T. CROWE, Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

MARGATE CORPORATION.
Alderman W. J. PERKINS.
Mr. S. LEGG, Superintendent.

MERTON, MORDEN AND CARSHALTON JOINT CEMETERY BOARD.
Councillor W. S. LE GROS CLARK, Chairman.

MIDDLETON CORPORATION.
Councillor A. WOLSTENCROFT, J.P.
Mr. J. CLARK, F.Inst.P.A., Superintendent and Registrar.

MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM CORPORATION.
Councillor B. DRAKE, C.C., Chairman, Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Councillor W. B. DUCKWORTH, Vice-Chairman, Parks and Cemeteries Committee.

MORTLAKE CREMATORIUM BOARD.
Alderman H. T. MERCER, Chairman.
Alderman A. E. BERNAYS, Member of the Board.

NEWBURY CORPORATION.
Alderman C. W. BURNS, Chairman.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE CORPORATION.
Alderman J. PEARSON, J.P., Sheriff and Chairman of Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. T. R. MIDGLEY, Deputy City Engineer.

NEWPORT (MON.) CORPORATION.
Alderman Mrs. S. J. HAYWARD, Mayor.
Councillor C. H. ADAMS.

NEWPORT AND GATCOMBE (I.W.) JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE.
Councillor A. O. PURDY.

NORWICH CREMATORIUM LIMITED.
Mr. P. H. JONES, Managing Director.
Mr. H. ROYLE.

NORWICH CORPORATION.
Councillor A. E. NICHOLLS, Vice-Chairman, City Committee.
Mr. L. A. JEWELL, Superintendent.

NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION.
Alderman GRIFFIN, Chairman, Public Parks Committee.
Councillor MALTBY, Vice-Chairman.
Mr. W. G. AYRES, Parks Superintendent.

PADDINGTON CORPORATION.
Councillor Mrs. E. F. PAIN, Committee Member.
Mr. G. E. PARSONS, Superintendent.

PETERBOROUGH CORPORATION.
Alderman H. J. FARROW, J.P., Chairman, Burial Committee.
Councillor J. A. FARROW, J.P.
Mr. F. J. SMITH, A.M.I.C.E., City Engineer.

PONTYPRIDD BURIAL BOARD AND CREMATION AUTHORITY.
Councillor J. R. CLAYTON.
Mr. JAMES E. SPICKETT, Clerk.
Mr. S. DAVIES, Superintendent.

PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION.
Alderman A. G. STAPLEFORD, Chairman, Cemeteries and Crematorium Sub-Committee.

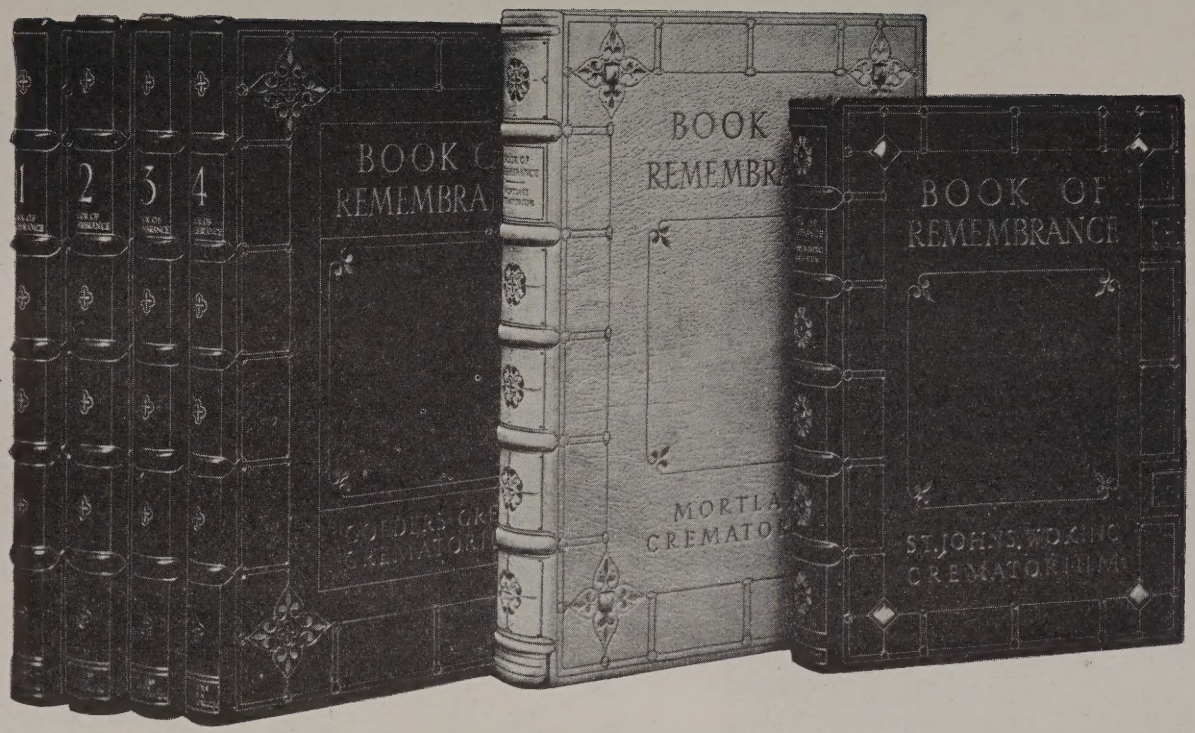
PRESTWICH CORPORATION.
Mr. I. STRONG, Superintendent.

READING CORPORATION.
Alderman A. J. MAKER, Vice-Chairman, Estates Committee.

REIGATE CORPORATION.
Alderman W. L. LORKIN.

ROCHESTER CORPORATION.
Councillor T. C. Harwood, M.B.E.
Lt.-Col. W. Law, M.I.C.E., City Surveyor.
ROMFORD CORPORATION.
Mr. G. J. Oddy, Superintendent.
ROTHERHAM CORPORATION.
Alderman G. A. Barker, Chairman, Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Councillor A. R. Shayler, Vice-Chairman.
Mr. S. J. Manson.
RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Councillor C. G. A. Cowan, J.P., Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee.
ST. ALBANS CORPORATION.
Mr. S. H. E. Crane, Town Clerk.
ST. HELENS CORPORATION.
Councillor P. M. Lowe, Deputy Chairman, Parks and Cemetery Committee.
Mr. E. Thornton, Manager.
ST. MARYLEBONE CORPORATION.
Councillor E. C. Britton, Chairman, Cemetery Committee.
Mr. L. T. Lawrence, Superintendent.
SALE CORPORATION.
Mr. E. Bishop, Superintendent.
SALFORD CORPORATION.
Mr. Frank Wilkes, Superintendent and Registrar.
SALISBURY CORPORATION.
Alderman E. J. Case.
SCOTTISH BURIAL REFORM & CREMATION SOCIETY LTD.
Baillie Roberton, C.B.E., LL.D.
SHEFFIELD CORPORATION.
Alderman Mrs. G. Tebbutt, Chairman, Parks and Burial Grounds Committee.
Mr. E. O. Sadler, Manager, Parks and Cemeteries Department.
SHIPLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Councillor S. Derbyshire, J.P., Chairman, Estates Committee.
Mr. W. Cooper, Superintendent.
SHREWSBURY CORPORATION.
Mr. T. Morris, Chairman, Cemetery Committee.
SLOUGH CORPORATION.
Councillor A. W. J. Pusey, Vice-Chairman, Cemetery Committee.
Mr. J. Phillips, Superintendent.
SOUTHAMPTON CORPORATION.
Councillor Mrs. B. M. Sakoschansky, Chairman, Cemeteries and Crematorium Committee.
Mr. L. R. Green, Registrar.
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CORPORATION.
Alderman W. J. Perrett, Chairman, Sanitary Committee.
Mr. R. E. Scott, Registrar.
SOUTHPORT CORPORATION.
Councillor E. Tomlinson, Chairman, Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Councillor R. Seddon, Vice-Chairman.
Mr. W. Clark, Superintendent.
STAFFORD CORPORATION.
Alderman T. H. Tunnicliffe, J.P., Chairman, Burial Board Committee.
Mr. A. E. Bennett, Superintendent.
STIRLING CORPORATION.
Councillor D. McGrowther.
STOKE-ON-TRENT CORPORATION.
Councillor Wood, Chairman, Parks and Cemetery Committee.
Councillor H. Ward, Vice-Chairman.
Mr. W. J. Myatt, Superintendent and Registrar.
STRETFORD CORPORATION.
Councillor A. C. Trythall, Chairman, Parks and Cemetery Committee.
Councillor E. R. Forbes.
SUNDERLAND CORPORATION.
Mr. H. Potts, General Superintendent.
SUTTON AND CHEAM CORPORATION.
Councillor W. H. Humphreys.
Mr. F. E. H. Baker, Superintendent.
SWANSEA CORPORATION.
Councillor W. G. Rees, Chairman, Parks Committee.
Mr. T. Winchcombe, Superintendent.
SWINDON CORPORATION.
Alderman A. E. Long, Chairman, Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. W. A. Cutting, Deputy Borough Surveyor.
TAUNTON JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE.
Mr. A. H. H. Southwood, Chairman.
TOTTENHAN AND WOOD GREEN BURIAL BOARD.
Alderman Mrs. A. Kitchener, Chairman.
Mr. Percy Benson, Clerk.
TUNBRIDGE WELLS CORPORATION.
Councillor Cross, Chairman, Burial Board Committee.
Mr. D. I. Brown, Superintendent.
TWICKENHAM CORPORATION.
Councillor Mrs. E. A. Jamieson, Chairman, Burial Committee.
Councillor N. W. Spencer, Vice-Chairman, Burial Committee.
Mr. A. S. Knolles, Borough Engineer.
Mr. W. H. Jones, Town Clerk.
URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Mr. E. L. Leeming, Surveyor.
UXBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Councillor P. E. Bates, Chairman, Parks and Open Spaces Committee.
Councillor Miss R. B. Smith.

WALSALL CORPORATION.
Councillor A. W. Hall, Member, Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. W. V. Wall, Superintendent.
WANDSWORTH CORPORATION.
Councillor L. S. Hollis, Chairman, Cemeteries Committee.
Councillor J. Sally, Vice-Chairman.
WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD CORPORATION.
Alderman R. Steel.
Councillor R. H. S. Fox.
WARRINGTON CORPORATION.
Councillor H. Harding, J.P., Mayor.
Mr. A. Mason, Superintendent and Registrar.
WEMBLEY CORPORATION.
Mr. Cecil S. Trapp, B.Sc. (Eng.), Borough Engineer and Surveyor.
Mr. T. Haggerty, Superintendent.
WEST HARTLEPOOL CORPORATION.
Councillor C. E. Johnson.
Mr. F. Durkin, Borough Engineer.
Mr. F. Cross.
WESTON-SUPER-MARE CORPORATION.
Councillor T. A. Jones.
WIMBLEDON CORPORATION.
Councillor C. W. de Roemer, J.P., Chairman, Open Spaces and Cemetery Committee.
Councillor J. E. C. Stroud, Vice-Chairman.
Mr. H. T. Hopper, Superintendent.
Mr. N. C. Hartley, Town Clerk's Department.
WOLVERHAMPTON CORPORATION.
Alderman W. Lawley, Mayor.
Alderman C. B. V. Taylor, Chairman, Parks and Cemeteries Committee.
Mr. W. M. Law, Borough Engineer.
Mr. I. R. Drummond.
WOOLWICH CORPORATION.
Mr. D. A. Hendry.
WORTHING CORPORATION.
Alderman E. R. Willoughby.
WREXHAM CORPORATION.
Mr. J. Rowley, Superintendent.
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.
Home Office.
Ministry of Health.
Scottish Office.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.
The Rt. Hon. Lord Horder, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.
ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.
Mr. J. L. Seaton Dahl, F.R.I.B.A.
ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.
Mr. W. T. Creswell, K.C.
IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.
Lt.-Col. R. W. Murphy, O.B.E.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM SUPERINTENDENTS.
Mr. H. W. Welsh, General Secretary.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS.
Mr. J. James-Crook.
Mr. M. Northover.
Mr. G. A. Hotter, Secretary.
SANITARY INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION.
Mr. W. R. McGrath.
PRIVATE DELEGATES.
Mr. T. Archer.
Mr. J. F. Askam.
Mr. E. A. Corp.
Wren N. S. Corp.
Mr. J. H. Crossley, B.Sc.
Mr. V. O. Cutts.
Mr. John C. Dixon.
Mr. T. V. Garrud.
The Hon. Mrs. Spencer-Graves.
Mr. H. D. Hughes, M.P.
Alderman J. Reeves, M.P.
Mr. H. T. Seward, F.R.I.B.A.
Mr. Peter D. Smithson.
Miss Elizabeth G. Spencer.
Mr. Hannen Swaffer.
Mrs. Sykes.
Miss I. E. Taylor.
Mr. R. E. Underwood, M.B.E.
Mr. Edward White, V.M.H., P.P.I.L.A.
EXHIBITORS.
J. F. Askam, Limited.
General Electric Company.
Birlec, Limited.
Pharos Press.
J. Wippell & Company, Limited.
Hurst Franklin & Company, Limited.
E. G. Dorey.
British Gas Council.
G. M. Hammer & Company, Limited.
F. G. Marshall.
PRESS.
Press Association.
Daily Telegraph.
Funeral Service Journal (A. E. Fearnley).



Books of Remembrance
HAND MADE
Illumination and Heraldry
Manuscript Writing

F. G. MARSHALL, 34, ROBINSON ROAD, LONDON, S.W.17 CRAFTSMAN & SPECIALIST
in the requirements of Crematoria for many years

The Scattering Ceremony

Ash Scatterers

by E. G. Dorey

Also designer and manufacturer of bronze caskets, memorial tablets, grilles, doors for committal chambers and all other bronze and metal work.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE SENT ON APPLICATION

E. G. DOREY

12 PRESIDENT STREET LONDON E.C.1

TELEPHONE : CLERKENWELL 4492

SPECIAL TERMS FOR CREMATION AUTHORITIES

FITTINGS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS
FOR CREMATORIA
CINERARY URNS AND TABLETS

Designs & Estimates
on application

J. WIPPELL & Co., LTD.

EXETER ✣ LONDON ✣ MANCHESTER
Cathedral Yard 11 Tufton St. S.W.1 24 King St. M/C2

HURST, FRANKLIN & Co. Ltd.

Craftsmen in all metals

52-58a, GIFFORD STREET
LONDON, N.1

Specialists in the manufacture of all classes of metal work for Crematoria :-

BRONZE URNS
CASKETS
GRILLES, ETC.
MEMORIAL TABLETS
in Cast, Engraved or Enamelled

DESIGNS and ESTIMATES
gladly forwarded on application

Gas-heated Crematoria

The use of Gas provides a heating medium befitting the dignity of the occasion. Gas-fired furnaces are used in 80 per cent. of all crematoria in England and Scotland including those at Brighton, Coventry, Kensal Green, Cheltenham, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

Details available from:

BRITISH GAS COUNCIL,
1 GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W.1